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MONDAY DECEMBER 10, 2012

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POLL RESULTS

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet?

Yes	32
No	84

Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012

INSIDE

NATION



Louisiana congressman Charles Boustany wins a fifth term.

► PAGE 14

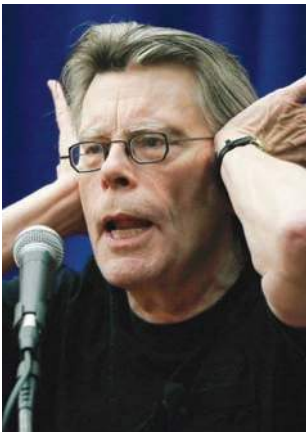
ASIA



A typhoon that killed nearly 600 in the Philippines makes a U-turn.

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LIFE & STYLE



Stephen King talks about writing with writing students.

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Marines set arrested landing record on Tinian. **PAGE 5**
Ospreys complete landmark deployment to Guam. **PAGE 9**

Double homicide in San Vicente

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

What started as a child neglect incident when a boy was not picked up at his school on Thursday afternoon became a missing person's complaint and later a double homicide case after police found the decomposing bodies of a couple believed to be the child's parents at 1:06pm on Saturday in San Vicente. No suspect or suspects has/have been arrested as of yesterday.

The 6-year-old boy, a first grader, has been in the custody of the Division of Youth Services since Thursday night.

As of Sunday afternoon, police officers continued to canvass the crime



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Department of Public Safety public information officer Jason Tarkong stands in front of the house in San Vicente.

scene and the surrounding area. Sources said the FBI has been helping in the case.

The two-story concrete house is in a hard to find, grassy area in San Vicente, past the former Stanford Hotel. One of the neighbors told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they smelled something foul Saturday morning, and only learned of the decomposing bodies when police of-

ficers started arriving in the area at past 1pm that day.

Department of Public Safety public information officer Jason Tarkong, in an interview in front of the house in San Vicente yesterday, said this is a "very sensitive case" and DPS is not releasing the

See DOUBLE on Page 4

Immediate jeopardy at CHC lifted

► Medicare extends termination date to February 2013

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Friday lifted all three immediate jeopardy statuses imposed on the Commonwealth Health Center and extended the termination date of its condition of participation to give it more time to rectify all deficiencies cited in a recent survey.

The decision was announced by CMMS' Division of Survey and Certification manager Rufus Arther in a letter to Commonwealth Health-

See CHC on Page 4

2nd win for SAES in Christmas tree décor contest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

San Antonio Elementary School defended its title on Saturday after winning the 7th Annual Christmas Tree Decoration Contest for the second consecutive year.

School counselor Daisy Villagomez-Bier led students from the Home of the Octopus in receiving the \$5,000 prize at the awarding ceremony that drew hundreds of community members as the event coincided with the Christmas in the Marianas celebration.

The school received 303 points, besting 12 other public and private elementary schools on island for the annual competition that promotes recycling among the island's youth.

"It was a school-wide effort. The parents, teachers, students, and other staff members really came together and brought the materials for the decora-

See SAES on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

San Antonio Elementary School students, their parents, and staff pose for a group photo by their winning Christmas tree decorations after being hailed the winner of the 7th Annual Christmas Tree Decoration Contest of PDM Promoters, Inc. last Saturday.

Local

Green Meadow School wins float competition

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School staff, students, parents, and other supporters smile for the camera after winning first place in the 11th Annual Christmas in the Marianas float competition last Saturday at the Paseo de Marianas.



By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Besides commemorating its 10th anniversary this year, Green Meadow School has one more reason to celebrate after the school won first place in the float competition of the 11th Annual Christmas in the Marianas.

Staff, students, and supporters of the institution cheered in delight after being recognized onstage in the awarding ceremony held Saturday at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

The school brought home \$1,025 in cash prize for their float, which was decorated using natural and recyclable materials like betel nut, tanga-tanga leaves, and old newspapers that were painted, dipped in glitter, and put together as a base.

The winning entry, which featured a sleigh, was also highlighted by Green Meadow students Natalie Hirshbein and Guia Hemley dressed as Santa babies, as well as K3 students in the background.

Analyn Danan, Green Meadow teacher who headed the school's float committee, emphasized that it was their teamwork that made them win, outshining three other participating schools.

Danan said school staff,

parents, and other supporters worked on the float a day before the actual contest, which also saw the participants in a parade from the Carolinian Utt to the Paseo de Marianas.

"We did not expect that we're going to win. It was a very tight competition but we tried our best," she said in an interview.

School president Milagros Merjilla said the prize money will be used for projects that would benefit some 119 students in their Gualo Rai, Chalan Kiya, and Dandan daycare and preschool locations.

Merjilla also invited the public to their 10th anniversary celebration, which will be free admission to the public. The event is slated for Dec. 22, Saturday, from 6pm to 8pm at Saipan World Resort.

She said the event, which will culminate their 10th year celebration, will be televised on KSPN and will feature Rose Dance School, Saipan Music & Dance, and Keynotes School of Music.

Other winners for the float contest were Kagman High School and Elementary School, which tied in second place and received \$600 each, while Koblerville Elementary School bagged third place and won \$450.

Entries were evaluated by

a panel of judges made up of representatives from KKMP, Power 99, and Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

Saturday's event also featured students modeling outfits made of recyclable materials. Walking the runway were students from Green Meadow School, Kagman Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, Mount Carmel High School, and Kagman High School. They all received gratuities from organizers.

This was the first time that Christmas in the Marianas was held at Paseo de Marianas, after Marianas Visitors Authority, Team PDI, and PDM Promoters, Inc. formed the "Friends of Paseo de Marianas."

This year's Christmas in the Marianas is a monthlong activity, providing a series of events at the heart of the tourist district.

This Saturday, Dec. 15, there will be a Xmas Health Walk at 5pm followed by the caroling contest involving seven elementary schools and, for the first time, two high schools. They are Mount Carmel elementary and high school, Green Meadow School, Agape Christian School, Kagman elementary and high school, Oleai, Koblerville, and Dandan elementary schools.

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Petition: Renew retirees' GHLIP with no changes in coverage

Commonwealth retirees are encouraged to sign a petition that seeks the retention of their existing health and life insurance policy to ensure that members will receive the same privileges offered by the carrier.

The online petition can be viewed at the retirees' website. It cites three main reasons for the initiative.

"We want the Retirement

Fund/trustee *ad litem* to maintain Aetna as our group health insurance carrier with the same insurance coverage that we presently have," states the position paper.

The government-sponsored Group Life Health Insurance Program is administered by the NMI Retirement Fund. The existing policy is offered by Aetna Global. The plan is set to expire on Dec. 31. Last week, the fed-

eral court granted trustee *ad litem* Joseph Razzano's emergency request to authorize him to negotiate a new policy where he seeks to propose new plan that proposes a significant reduction in member's premiums.

"Our main concern is that the Fund/*ad litem* is trying to

negotiate a further reduction on premiums that would result in changes and reduced coverage to our present policy. We strongly object to any further reduction coverage with our health insurance policy, other than what is offered by Aetna," the online petition states.

Based on the petition, retirees described Aetna's insurance poli-

cy as the "best" that they have and should not be modified.

"This has been the story of the CNMI, and with the state of disaster with our hospital of having inadequate healthcare here in the CNMI, we certainly all worry about the possibility of having inadequate health insurance coverage. It has been our observation that Aetna is very

easy to deal with and that they are open to discussing problems with coverage and billings when they do occur," states the petition, adding that Aetna's coverage outside the CNMI has proven to be "very satisfactory."

The contract with Aetna is expiring this month and without any action, it will automatically be renewed. **(Moneth G. Deposa)**

Alaska Brass holiday concert with local musicians at AMP

The much-awaited holiday concert of the U.S. Air Force band at the American Memorial Park will take place tomorrow, Tuesday.

The six airmen will take the stage along with four bands from Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band and the 30-member Saipan Pacific Winds. The concert is free from 5pm to 8:30pm at AMP.

Manta Band music director William DeWitt disclosed that members of the Alaska Brass ensemble are on island from Dec. 9 to 11 not only to offer beautiful sounds to the community but to share their skills and talents with

public school students.

Today, the "Alaska Ensemble" will spend the entire day at SSHS to meet young musicians. First on their agenda is the Advanced Band, the 50-member group that went to London Olympics this year, followed by the 45-member Beginning Band. The visitors are also scheduled to visit the program's Intermediate Band and at night, will meet with Saipan Pacific Winds members.

On Tuesday morning, the Alaska Brass is slated to visit students of Marianas High School's band program. **(Moneth G. Deposa)**

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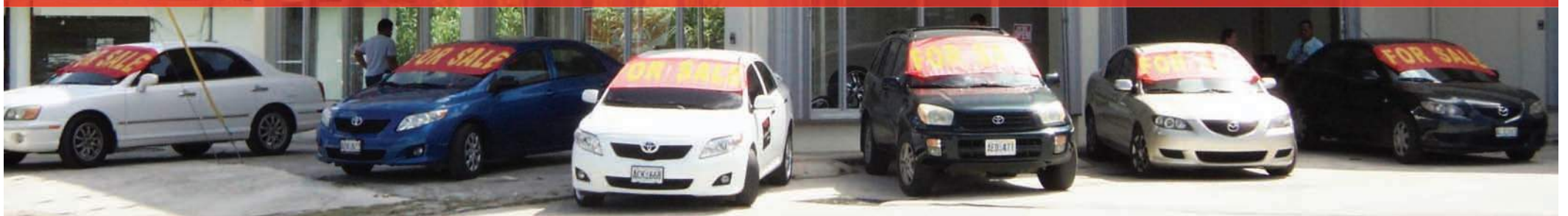
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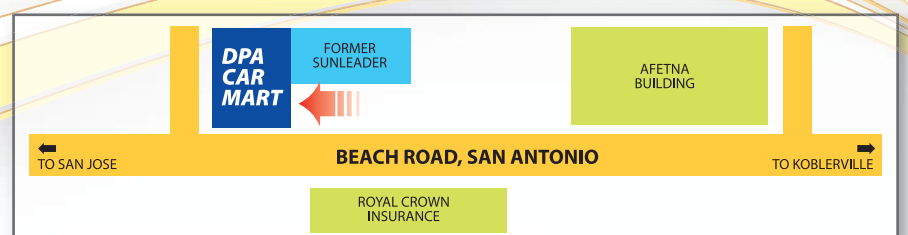


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Saipan Shell stations ranked No. 1 in customer service

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For their excellence in customer service, Shell stations on Saipan were ranked No. 1 among other retail licensees throughout the world in the Mystery Motorist Program for two consecutive quarters this year.

IP&E, licensee of the Shell brand in the CNMI, held a recognition ceremony last Dec. 7 at its Puerto Rico terminal to honor the operators of their eight gasoline stations on island, Delta

Management Corp. and D&W Corp.

Officials and staff of the two companies joined IP&E executives during the event in celebration of the award, which is a demonstration of their hard work in ensuring that customers are happy and appreciated in every visit.

The Mystery Motorist Program is held quarterly by a third party to evaluate each Shell site across the globe against established criteria, said Richard B. Behag, director of IP&E Retail Sales & Operations.

Saipan was placed on top of the list

among 38 Shell licensees in the world for the second quarter of 2012, garnering 99.4 percent, followed by Guam at 97.3 and New Zealand at 92.6.

For the third quarter, Saipan once maintained the No. 1 spot, receiving a perfect mark of 100 percent among not just Shell licensees but also Shell-operated countries, said Behag. The U.S. territory was followed by the Hongkong/Malaysia/Singapore cluster, Ukraine, India/Indonesia/Guam, and Oman.

"The fact that the people of Saipan

are No. 1 in the world, it should give you a lot of pride," IP&E president and chief executive officer Ricky Delgado said before presenting a plaque of appreciation to Delta Management's Jim Arenovski and Sung Moon Cho of D&W Corp.

Arenovski, whose company operates Shell Highway, Susupe, Puerto Rico, and San Roque, described the honor of being number one in the world as hard to describe and comprehend.

"It's a great day for Saipan in general. I hope this award is something that would be used for all businesses: that you can do great things in a small place."

He believes that the training they provide to their 40 staff, and the high level of standards that they set and ad-

here to are part of the reason why they received the accolade.

"This is a great testament to our staff's ability to deliver consistent level of product and service to our customers. We couldn't be happier," Arenovski told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that they will be giving each staffer a certificate similar to the plaque.

Cho, for his part, expressed his appreciation particularly to his staff. "The award is not mine; that's yours," said the operator of Shell Gualo Rai, Dandan, Koblerville, and Airport stations.

Bryan J. Bamba, IP&E senior vice president, said in his remarks that the award is significant for the international brand that they represent.

Bamba said the service they provide to customers is very much appreciated and noted the challenge now would be to maintain Saipan's high ranking in the program.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

IP&E officials led by president and chief executive officer J. Ricky R. Delgado, Jr. present a plaque of appreciation to Delta Management Corp.'s Jim Arenovski, left, and D&W Corp.'s Sung Moon Cho after Saipan ranked No. 1 in Shell's Mystery Motorist Program for the second and third quarters of the year, during a recognition ceremony held Friday morning at IP&E's Puerto Rico terminal.

SAES

From Page 1

tions," Villagomez-Bier said.

The decorations, she said, were made using materials that were utilized by the students at school, such as straws used from their milk and juice cartons served during breakfast and lunch, as well as other recyclable materials like water bottles and white plastic bags, which was used for the giant polar bear that went with the Christmas tree.

Villagomez-Bier said that the idea for the design was a collective decision by the working committee composed of the school administration, teachers, and parents, and the group included the students in collecting the materials they needed.

School principal James Sablan, who arrived after the awarding, thanked the team that worked on the tree decora-

tions, particularly the parents who did an "awesome job."

"Two years in a row and I'm very surprised and very impressed," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

When asked where the prize money will be used, Sablan said they have yet to decide on a specific project, although he did mention that the school's restroom facilities are in need of repair.

"We'll sit down with the leadership team and decide how to best use the money. It's for the students. Last year, we used it for benches," he added.

Coming in at second place is Golden Harvest International School with 289 points, while Green Meadow School won third place with 284 points. The winners received \$3,000 and \$2,000, respectively.

Garapan Elementary School won fourth place with 278 points followed by Oleai Elementary School with 258 points. Both schools won \$1,000.

Consolation prizes went to Joshua Generation International Academy, Agape Christian School, Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School, Grace Christian Academy, Mount Carmel School, and the Tanapag, William S. Reyes, and Dandan elementary schools.

Saturday's event also announced the winners of the 6th My Holiday Greetings to our Visitors Drawing Contest for Rota and Tinian elementary students.

Of the 56 entries from Sinapalo Elementary School, the winners were first placer Allan Maratita, second placer James Atalig, and third placer Christian Atalig.

Meanwhile, a total of 90 entries were received at the last minute from Tinian Elementary School. Winners were Carmina Borja, first place; Crizia P. Rodriguez, second place; and Miyako San Nicolas, third place.

The winning students will receive \$50, \$30, and \$20, respectively.

CHC

From Page 1

care Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta, stating that CHC has until Feb. 11, 2013, to demonstrate to CMS that it has resolved all remaining citations.

Medicare notified the corporation on Nov. 9, 2012, that the hospital was out of compliance with 13 standards—three of which posed immediate jeopardy to patient health and safety. Because of these deficiencies uncovered during a Sept. 25, 2012 certification survey, CHC's Medicare certification was scheduled for termination on Dec. 3.

Rufus, in his letter to Babauta, disclosed that based on the CMMS review of the corporation's submission, they have determined that the immediate jeopardy statuses have been addressed. But the hospital is not yet off the hook, pending resolution of other problems.

"You submitted evidence alleging abatement of immediate jeopardy.

Based on our careful review of that submission and our additional investigation we have determined that immediate jeopardy has been abated," stated Rufus.

He emphasized, however, that while the violations of the condition of participation no longer pose a danger to patient safety and welfare, CHC has yet to demonstrate compliance with all 13 citations that CMMS earlier identified in its survey report.

Rufus ordered the corporation to submit, within 10 days upon receipt of the decision, evidence in the form of "Plan of Correction" demonstrating how CHC will correct each of the 13 citations.

The evidence of correction of each deficiency must include an explanation as to how the correction was accomplished, both temporarily and permanently for each individual affected by the deficient practice, including any system changes that must be made.

Medicare also requires the corpora-

tion to include in the submission the date when the correction of the deficiency will be accomplished.

Esther Muña, corporation COO and chief financial officer, confirmed the CMS decision, describing it as good news.

"Having our actions approved by CMS is great news as it improves patient care. The next steps will continue to be that focus—improving patient care as we submit our plans to CMMS for their acceptance," Muna told *Saipan Tribune*.

CMMS first issued the immediate jeopardy statuses on CHC in September due to serious deficiencies discovered in its operation. Of these three IJs, only one was first abated—the lack of defibrillators in key units of the hospital. The two remaining immediate jeopardy statuses pertain to deficiencies in critical supplies in the laboratory unit, lack of specimen testing, tracking and accountability; and a malfunctioning CT scan and a broken portable x-ray unit both of which have been addressed.

DOUBLE

From Page 1

identities of the victims pending proper notification of next of kin.

"No suspect, no arrest has been made at this time," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sources said the child is attending Mount Carmel School, and he was brought to the area by authorities during the weekend. Sources said the Asian couple has business interests on Saipan.

Sources said one of the victims was shot in the head, and the other was strangled. Tarkong later confirmed with KSPN 2 that it was "violent, graphic."

The couple may have been dead since Thursday morning or afternoon, and this was the reason why they were not able to pick up their son from school that afternoon, sources said. Sources also said the couple's vehicle was found abandoned on Saturday at a beach area in Garapan.

DPS issued an initial press release yesterday afternoon, saying that police officers responded to a child neglect incident at 7:25pm on Thursday, Dec. 6.

Police said the 6-year-old boy was not picked up at school by his parents. The child was taken into custody by school staff who attempted to locate the parents at their residence in San Vicente.

"The parents were not responding to phone calls and not at home. At about 7:35pm, the police were contacted and a child neglect case filed. The Division of Youth Services took the child into custody Thursday evening. DYS attempted to locate the parents that evening and several times the next day, Friday, Dec. 7, 2012, but to no avail," said a press release from the DPS Office of the Commissioner.

On Saturday, Dec. 8, at 1:06pm, DYS filed a missing person's complaint with DPS, police said.

"Police officers went to the child's home and discovered two human bodies in a state of decomposition. One

male and one female. The human remains are believed to be the parents of the victim. Police have yet to confirm their identification. This case is classified as a homicide. Due to the sensitive nature of this case and the ongoing investigation, the names of the victims will be withheld pending proper notification of next of kin," DPS said.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are asking the community for help in this case. They encourage those with information about the case to call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 or use their website, www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Calls are anonymous. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest.

Since yesterday morning, social media has been buzzing about the San Vicente double homicide. People have been offering their prayers and condolences to the family and friends of the couple.

DPS' Tarkong said the department will be releasing more information about the case in the days ahead.

Because the suspect or suspects in the case are still at large, residents have been expressing concerns about their own safety. DPS' Tarkong said in any case, it's everyone's "constitutional right to defend your life and property as long as it is legal."

"Yes, of course, we'd like everybody to use whatever safety measures people would normally use," he said, adding that people should take necessary precautions. "But at this point in time DPS is not at liberty to release any additional information regarding the suspect or suspects because it's still under investigation."

It's not clear as of press time why authorities proceeded to the house only on Saturday to actually check the premises when the parents couldn't be contacted since Thursday.

This double homicide comes 10 months since the murder of a Godfather's Bar bartender, Emie Romero. To date, no suspect or suspects have been arrested in the Romero case.

Marines set arrested landing record on Tinian



An FA-18D Hornet aircraft makes an arrested landing at West Field here Dec. 7 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012.

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

By LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—Six FA-18D Hornet aircraft made arrested landings on West Field here Dec. 7 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012. The aircraft are with Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadrons 224 and 225, which are currently under the Unit Deployment Program with Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “The FA-18s came in to do a field arrestment exercise to help train our expeditionary airfield

Marines on the emplacement and operation of expeditionary equipment,” said Maj. Matthew Halbert, the officer in charge of Marine forces on Tinian and airfield operations company commander with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, MAG-12, 1st MAW, III MEF. Thirteen arrestments were conducted in under an hour by MWSS-171, which broke their previous record of 10 set in June during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012. “We coordinated with the aircraft on the radio, they came in, let the hook down, and took the arrestment,” said Halbert. “Then the Marines came and got the wire and, as they taxied clear of the runway, the Marines reset the cable and prepared to take the next aircraft coming in behind them.” Tinian has proven itself to be an ideal expeditionary training location for the Marines and sailors thus far, but the true test comes next week when MAG-12 will conduct 24-hour surge operations. “When we do 24-hour operations during this exercise, we will be able to shift back and forth between Guam and Tinian,” said Lt. Col. Thomas E. Frederick, the executive officer with MAG-12, 1st MAW, III MEF. “That way we can kind of give half the team a break and the fresher Marines can step in so that we are at a constant operational tempo.” During the surge, Tinian will also see participation from MV-22B Ospreys with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, MAG-36, 1st MAW, III MEF.

Tinian cadets witness Hornets make arrestments

By LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—Students from the Tinian High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps watched as FA-18D Hornet aircraft made arrested landings at West Field here Dec. 7 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012.

The Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, invited the JROTC cadets to West Field to give them a glimpse into Marine aviation capabilities.

“We were invited by the Marines to come out here and observe arresting gear operations with their F-18s,” said 1st Sgt. Pete Salas (Ret.), a senior Army instructor for the JROTC. “It was a good opportunity for our cadets to see some real military exercises in person.”

Many of the cadets are still unsure if they wish to make the commitment of military service after high school, but still show great interest in the training during FF12.

“It was a really great experience for us to watch because a lot of us want to be in the military and it gives us a closer look at what we could be doing some day,” said Marquina Hofschneider, a cadet with the JROTC. “This made me want to be a pilot more, but I am still not sure.”

For the cadets that expressed an interest in joining the military, watching the jets in action may have helped confirm what military occupation specialty they would be interested in.

Students from the Tinian High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps watch as an FA-18D Hornet makes an arrested landing on West Field here Dec. 7 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK



“Coming out here really benefitted [the cadets] because two of them expressed that they were interested in being Marine Corps fighter pilots,” said Salas. “After today, I think it is more like five or six [who want to be Marine Corps pilots]. Seeing this in person really made them think, ‘maybe this is what I want to do.’”

The cadets also took the chance to speak with Marines here and ask them about their MOS, why they joined, and various other questions. As the final Hornet returned to the sky, the cadets took one final photo with the Marines, a keepsake from the day’s events to maintain the memories made.

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IP&E vapor recovery unit seeks to protect Saipan's air

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

IP&E successfully completed the performance testing for its newly purchased Vapor Recovery Unit, making the Saipan terminal facility of the Shell licensee on Saipan fully compliant with federal regulations.

Company officials led by president and chief executive officer J. Ricky R. Delgado Jr. led Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and other guests in a ribbon-cutting ceremony last Friday for the

\$2.3-million VRU, touted as IP&E's contribution to protecting the island environment.

Fr. June Limbaga blessed the unit and other parts of IP&E's terminal facility in Puerto Rico.

Representatives of Smith-bridge Guam, Inc., the prime contractor for the project, as well as the Australia-based unit supplier Jordan Technologies Asia Pacific Ltd. also attended the event.

The VRU will greatly reduce the emissions of vapor or greenhouse gas into the air

at the loading gantry or filling rack at the terminal, recovering and collecting the vapors at the absorber vessels before being pumped back to the vertical fuel storage tanks, explained project team lead Richard B. Behag.

Behag, IP&E director for Retail Sales & Operations Engineering, said in an interview that the Saipan terminal is "in the borderline" of the required vapor levels of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, even exceeding the maximum limit in some instances.

"We took it upon ourselves, in discussion with the U.S. EPA, that we will put up this facility in compliance with the Clean Air Act," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the VRU's performance testing was completed with "favorable" results middle of last week.

Behag disclosed that the lifespan of the VRU is estimated at 30 years, ensuring Saipan residents clean air to breathe in coming years.

"At the same time, it reinforces our way of doing business,

which is sustainable development," he said. "We would like to assure that this generation and the generations to come will have a healthy and safe community to live in. We want to have positive impact to the people of the community while protecting the environment."

IP&E's Delgado thanked everyone involved in completing the project, which speaks of the company's commitment to pro-

tecting some of the most pristine environment in the world.

David Rosario, Division of Environmental Quality deputy director, said in a separate interview that IP&E is "going beyond the call of duty" by coming up with the VRU from which residents of the Commonwealth can benefit.

Rosario expressed optimism that other companies on island can follow suit in due time.

EAGI committee recommends Senate OK of 2 Fund trustees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is recommending the full Senate confirmation of Martin DLG. San Nicolas of Tinian and Jose T. Limes of Saipan to serve on the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees, following the panel's public hearing Thursday morning on the two governor's appointees.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's third nomination to the Fund board, Alvaro Santos, however, remains under EAGI Committee review.

Senate EAGI Committee vice chair Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), who presided over the public hearing on San Nicolas and Limes' nominations Thursday, said the panel agrees with the administration's plan to revive the Fund board so they are recommending the confirmation of the two nominees.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), EAGI panel chair, recused from presiding over the public hearing over conflict of interest because San Nicolas is his uncle.

But Cruz said while Santos

also submitted the required documents, his nomination is still under review. They also have yet to set a public hearing on his nomination.

Earlier this year, the Senate rejected the governor's re-appointment of Santos to serve on the Marianas Public Land Trust over his earlier decision to buy a private property for \$272,000 during a time the MPLT board of trustees didn't have a quorum.

The Fitial administration said it is reviving the Fund board of trustees in order to stop the assessment of "unreasonable fees" by the agency's trustee *ad litem*.

Federally appointed trustee *ad litem* Joseph Razzano has invoiced the government over \$80,000 in services and expenses in just the last month and a half. The administration believes this is too much, considering that the Fund only spends about \$6,000 a year per board member.

The Fund lost its board quorum in May this year. Senators said if and when the two nominees are confirmed, then the Fund board will have a quorum again.



IP&E president and chief executive officer J. Ricky R. Delgado Jr., second from right, and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, center, join other guests in a ribbon-cutting ceremony last Friday for the \$2.3-million Vapor Recovery Unit in Puerto Rico.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>



AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Francisco L. Kaipat, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about February 21, 2001 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 26, 2001 under Document No. 01-268 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 128 D 51, (formerly known as part of Lot 018 D 57), containing an area of 620 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 128 D 00 the original of which was recorded 07 DEC 99 as Document No. 99-2896 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Amended Notice of Default on September 21, 2011. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **Monday, December 10, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan** under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. **The minimum acceptable bid offer shall be not less than \$69,000.00 the total amount due under the VA loan.**

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 8th day of November, 2012.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director, NMHC

Lot No.: 128 D 51
Area: 620 m²
Gross Living Area: 1,201 Ft²
Location: Adilanto Loop, Sugar King Estates, Saipan
3 BR, 2 Bath
Minimum Bid: \$69,000.00
Bid Date: December 10, 2012
Bid Time: 10:00 a.m.
Bid Place: NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan



Office of the Public Auditor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Website: <http://opacnmi.com>

1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL 2012 ELECTION CANDIDATES
and POLITICAL PARTIES

Public Law 12-18, the "Northern Mariana Islands Election Reform Act of 2000" (the Act), requires all certified candidates to file a detailed Campaign Statement of Account. This itemized Statement, prepared with the advice and co-signature of the candidate's treasurer, must show the specific source(s), name(s) of contributor(s), and amount(s) of contributions and expenses. The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is mandated by the Act to administer the filing of such Statements. Pursuant to the Act, failure to file a complete, signed, dated and verified Statement by **December 26, 2012**, shall subject you to a fine of up to **\$100 per day** for each day the Statement is late.

The "Campaign Statement of Account" form, suggested reports, and supporting schedules are available on OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com. Please note that filing of a "Campaign Statement of Account" form is **mandatory**.

The Act also requires that the Statement be verified under oath by the candidate/political party and the candidate's/political party's treasurer. Our office will provide free notary service to those who wish to avail themselves of this service. (Proper identification bearing both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided).

Notary Service Schedule:

Saipan:
Office of the Public Auditor
Monday through Friday
8am to 4:30pm

Rota:
Rota Mayor's Office (Conference Room)
Monday, December 17, 2012 – 9am to 4:30pm
Tuesday, December 18, 2012 – 9am to 12:00pm

Tinian:
Tinian Mayor's Office (Conference Room)
Thursday, December 20, 2012 – 9am to 4:30pm

IN ONGOING CASE AGAINST THE FUND:

Federal court allows parties more time to prepare

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Court designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood has extended the filing deadline for both plaintiff and defendants in the ongoing NMI Retirement Fund case to provide them ample time to prepare their responses to several motions before the court.

The Fund earlier requested the extension to allow its lawyer to work more effectively on a response, which originally was required to be filed

on Dec. 5. The government's reply, however, was initially due on Dec. 14, 2012.

Based on Tydingco-Gatewood order Wednesday, the court gave the Fund until Dec. 24 to file its response while the government's new deadline to file a reply is on Jan. 8, 2013.

The court also rescheduled the hearing on trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano's report and the hearing on the motions to Jan. 15 at 8am. The hearing on the motions will immediately follow and will conclude at 7:30pm, if necessary.

In this new schedule, the court will hear arguments on six different motions. These include a motion to dismiss the plaintiff's second amended complaint; motion to dismiss defendant's cross complaint; motion for preliminary injunction; motion to appoint receiver; motion for reconsideration and objections to trustee *ad litem*'s request for compensation; and motion for settlement conference.

Last week, Razzano was ordered by the court to provide a comprehensive report on the administrative operations of the

Fund, including staffing patterns and needs as well as the effect of Public Law 17-82, the law that authorizes members to withdraw their contributions without separating from the government. The court also wants to determine the number of applications received, approved and/or rejected.

The Fund recently suspended the disbursement of refund checks, citing the failure of the central government and autonomous agencies to remit both employee and employer contributions to the agency. This action surprised the government and disappointed many members. Because of this

decision, hundreds of Fund members who have been waiting for their refund checks are facing an indefinite delay in their monies. The Fund earlier said that the issuance of the checks will remain suspended until the federal court provides guidance on future release of the funds.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Weatherization applications now available

The Department of Public Works' Energy Division announces that its Weatherization Assistance Program for Low Income Families will commence its program effective Dec. 1, 2012. WAP applications are available at the Energy Division Office On Capital Hill, building #1337 or by accessing it via the Energy website at: www.cnmienenergy.com under Weatherization Assistance Program applications. If you have any questions regarding the program, contact program manager Lorraine M. Seman or Eugene C. Borja, auditor, at 664-4481. (PR)

Change to Energy Star Rebate Program

The CNMI Energy Division is informing all prospective recipients of the Energy Star Rebate Program that the redemption period for all appliance

rebate vouchers will now be for 30 days from date of issuance, instead of 90 days, as indicated in the terms and conditions of the program.

Effective today, Dec. 10, 2012, all Residential Energy Star Rebate Vouchers must be redeemed within 30 days and not 90 days upon issuance of voucher. Extensions on vouchers will not be granted.

For more information, contact Shawn Pangelinan at CNMI Energy Division/ Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Office at 664-4487/4489/4490. (PR)

SSHS mid-progress reports out

Saipan Southern High School's Term 2 mid-progress report is scheduled to be picked up on Thursday, Dec. 13, from 3pm to 6pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parents' and legal guardians' visit. All students will be released at 1:05pm. For more information, contact the administrative office at 237-3710. (PR)



CHRISTMAS AT THE CHAMBER

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

"Santa Claus" delights the crowd with his presence and presents at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan on Wednesday. The Chamber also hosted its Student Exploration Day luncheon, bringing together some 70 students and their sponsoring Chamber members.



FREE Training Courses



Cultura Athletics, LLC under a sub-award grant issued to Marianas Resource Conservation & Development Council is able to provide the follow courses free of charge to U.S. eligible workers. Some courses also qualify for professional development credit with the CNMI Public School System.

ALTHETICS COURSE (Oleai Sports Complex)

Intro to Athletics	12-hours	December 8 & 15, 2012
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BASKETBALL COURSES (Ada Gym)

Basketball 101	16-hours	December 5 & 6, 2012
Basketball Coaching Level 1	20-hours	December 10-14, 2012

For information and to register for the above courses, contact:
Elias Rangamar at (670) 235-1775 or email eli_rang@yahoo.com

VOLLEYBALL COURSES

Coaching Mini Volleyball (for Elementary Schools)	8:30a-2:30p	Dec 3-6, 2012 Dec 10-14, 2012
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Coaching Volleyball for Beginners (for Junior High Schools)	8:30a-2:30p	Dec 17-21, 2012 Jan 2-4, 2013
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Indoor Volleyball Referee (MHS Gym)	4:00p-8:00p	Dec 13 & 14, 2012 Dec 18 & 20, 2012 Dec 27 & 28, 2012
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BASKETBALL COURSES (MHS Gym)

Scoretable Official (Consecutive 3-day Sessions)	4:00p-8:00p	Dec 4, 6, 11, 2012 Dec 17, 19, 21, 2012
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L "O"/1 Basketball Referee (Consecutive 5-day Sessions)	4:00p-8:00p	Dec 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 2012 Jan 7-11, 2013
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For information and to register for the above courses, please contact:
Volleyball Courses training.programs@nmivolleyball@gmail.com
Basketball Courses 731ekul@gmail.com or call 234-6548 (Office) or 287-2424 (Mobile)

"This program is supported by federal funds in the amount of \$145,000.00 under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program through a Sub-grant award from the CNMI Department of Commerce."

Triple J Christmas Sale is delayed until Wednesday the 12th due to delayed ships from the States and from Guam. But it will be the biggest Christmas sale ever, so save your money.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

TRIPLE J MANAGEMENT

GETTING TO THE POINT ON PACIFIC TUNA FISHERIES

Scientists call for reference points to replace gridlock

The viability of the Western Central Pacific tuna fishery is at risk from a failure to reach decisions on management because of competing political and economic goals, according to scientists attending the annual meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission yesterday in Manila.

Recent analyses by the Secretariat of Pacific Community fisheries scientists show that overfishing of bigeye tuna is already a problem, while the albacore tuna catch has risen rapidly to levels that threaten the profitability of Pacific Is-

land fisheries.

Mike Batty, head of SPC Fisheries, says while not all tuna are at risk, stocks of all four main species have fallen to historically low levels.

"Many Pacific Island countries rely on tuna fisheries for employment, food security and income. Continuing the increase in fishing effort will have a negative impact on these countries," he says.

The Western and Central Pacific tuna fishery is the world's biggest tuna fishery, with total catches worth \$5.5 billion in 2011.

"Management decisions are

reached through a consensus-based system which is fraught with competing interests and values," says Batty. "Such a system leads to gridlock and watered-down decisions that favor short-term economic interests at the expense of long-term productivity and sustainability."

Batty explains that long-term objectives for the Pacific tuna fisheries needed to be based on economic outcomes such as revenue, employment and stable sources of fish for processing as well as environmental outcomes such as sustainability of fish stocks and reducing the by-

catch and interaction with species such as sharks and turtles.

"These objectives will help us to identify desirable levels of tuna stocks and to drive sustainable management decisions," he says.

SPC's Dr. Graham Pilling believes management action needs to be based on a system of reference points. "The implementation of reference points and harvest control rules would allow fisheries managers to act swiftly and efficiently to ensure tuna stocks provide a sustainable and consistent supply of tuna to markets," he says. (SPC)

Japanese teachers conduct practicum at MCS

By JANELA REVILLA and LANCE DELEON GUERRERRO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Seven teachers from Japan observed classes at Mount Carmel School from Nov. 26 to Dec. 5. Their visit was part of an international training program for future educators.

The interns are part of the Elementary School English Teacher Training Program, a curriculum enriching educators' instructional skills. The members came from different parts of Japan wanting to enhance their speaking ability in order to

teach basic English.

Each fall, MCS welcomes foreign guests to its culture and curriculum, particularly students from Japanese middle schools and high schools. This year, a surprising second set of visitors, this time future educators of Japan, filled the hallways after a recent tree planting ceremony with visiting Nagaoka Junior High.

The student teachers were required to complete 20 hours of observation and 30 hours of assistance. At first, they observed the routines and patterns of the students learning. After having spent enough time observing,

the teachers were able to practice presenting lesson plans and engaging in meaningful interactions with the class.

"I liked the students. They were helpful and friendly," said Misato Tezuka during an interview. "The teachers were also very nice. They seem strict at times yet express love to their students," she added, highlighting her experience with the grade school advisors.

Aside from spending time at MCS, the Japanese teachers toured the island, expanding their knowledge of Saipan's involvement in World War II.

"I was surprised to learn that Japan went head to head with Saipan during the war. There are a lot of significant connections between our cultures," Keiko Okumura said as she elaborated on their field trip.

ALC, the program sponsor, is thankful for the warm hospitality from the faculty, staff, and students of MCS. "We appreciate your cooperation," event coordinator Mr. Nakamura said. Mount Carmel School hopes that it continues to be not only an exceptional educational institution for visiting students, but for visiting teachers-in-training as well.



Seven teachers from Japan observe classes at Mount Carmel School from Nov. 26 to Dec. 5 as part of the Elementary School English Teacher Training Program. Other photo shows one of the teachers presenting lesson plans and engaging in meaningful interactions with the class.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 10, 2001

High suicide rate alarms NMI officials

Almost 20 percent of high school students have suicidal thoughts, making the phenomenon the third leading cause of death among adolescents in the nation. The findings were based from the most recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC findings corroborate those of the CNMI Department of Public Health's Community Guidance Center that suicide has become an alarming problem among the youth on the islands. The local government has formed the CGC Task Force on Suicide Prevention/Intervention, which revealed that there is one Micronesian ethnic group whose suicide rate is 300 per 100,000 individuals.

New high school receives funding aid

Funding assistance offered by the Governor's Office will empower the Public School System to furnish Saipan's newest public campus with basic educational and staffing needs come January 2002. The PSS recently received from the executive branch a funding support to open up the \$5.6 million Kagman High School early next year, a campus that will be home to about 500 secondary students. Education Commissioner Dr. Rita H. Inos, in a letter to Special Assistant for Management and Budget Edward S. Tenorio, extended her heartfelt appreciation, particularly for the provision of the increased Fiscal Year 2001 and FY 2002 (first quarter) payroll allotments.

Dec. 10, 2002

CUC seeks \$1.5M for EPA-required project

With an Environmental Protection Agency deadline clawing at its back, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is seeking relief from the Executive Branch and the Legislature to identify sources for some \$1.5 million additional funding needed to start the construction of the Agingan wastewater ocean outfall. CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta said the sewer treatment project costs at least \$2.8 million-based on the lowest bidder's estimate-but only \$750,000 has been made available by the EPA, and some \$1 million would be produced by the utility firm. "We're requesting their assistance in identifying money for the Agingan outfall," she said.

Airport, seaport operations normalize

The Rota International Airport sustained minor damage in the wake of Supertyphoon Pongsona, prompting authorities to bar domestic airlines from landing after dark to prevent possible accidents, the Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed yesterday. However, CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the damaged equipment are repairable and minor. Salas said strong winds cracked the Rota airport's windsock and the rotating visual lights-two navigational aids that help pilots land safely, especially at night. As such, airline companies will have to defer their nighttime flights and move them up at least two hours earlier.

Dec. 10, 2003

CPA works on permitting of Sugar Dock project

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is working on the permitting process of the Sugar Dock project, even as it declined to issue more statements on the plan in light of the environmental concerns raised by a group opposing the proposed ferry project. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said the ports authority has decided to refrain from issuing any more statements about the project as things would be clearer after the Coastal Resources Management Office-sponsored public hearing this month and next month. "We don't want to circumvent the issue and we want the public hearing to proceed because that would give us the chance to raise other aspects of the project," said Salas in an interview.

MPLA gave \$30K for Tokyo confab

The Marianas Public Lands Authority has donated a total of \$30,000—not \$10,000 as earlier reported—to the Governor's Office for the CNMI-sponsored investment conference in Tokyo recently. The MPLA board, upon the request of the governor, adopted a resolution in September authorizing the release of \$10,000 to help defray the cost in hosting the off-island meeting. Shortly before the event, the governor had asked the MPLA board anew for an additional \$20,000. MPLA commissioner Henry Hofschneider confirmed that the additional amount was released. "The MPLA board approved it because they believe in it. They looked at the benefit that the CNMI economy will get from that conference," he said.

MV-22 Ospreys complete landmark deployment to Guam

NAVAL COMPUTER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AREA MASTER STATION, Guam—Marine Corps Aviation hit another significant landmark Saturday with the successful deployment of three MV-22 Ospreys across 1500 nautical miles in just over five hours from Okinawa, Japan to Guam. The aircraft arrived at Andersen Air Force Base at 5:09pm.

The aircraft are participating in the Marine Aircraft Group -12 Exercise Forager Fury 2012 (FF12).

The MV-22s from Marine Medium Tilt Rotor Squadron

265, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force completed the simulated “assault support” mission with four F/A-18 Hornets and KC-130J from Aerial Refueling Transport Squadron 152, 1st MAW, III MEF.

The MV-22s linked up with a VMGR-152 KC-130J about 850 nautical miles into the flight, southwest of Iwo Jima, to aerial refuel en route to Guam.

The flight from Okinawa enabled 1st MAW to simulate safe flight passage through 500 nautical miles of permissive territory free of enemy threats,

and 200 nautical miles of hostile territory with four F/A-18s providing realistic replication of enemy aircraft.

This event reinforces Marine Air-Ground Task Force integration and exercises maneuver to an objective from over the horizon. Lessons learned from this exercise will enable the Marine Corps to refine the tactical application of MV-22s in support of current and future contingency operations in the Asia-Pacific area.

During FF 12, Anderson Air Force Base will serve as the MAG-12 forward operating

base and will be the venue for the MAG-12 operations center. Training on Tinian’s West Field includes emplacement of arresting gear and fuel storage/distribution for purposes of extending aviation training throughout the MIRC.

FF 12 provides an excellent opportunity for Marine forces to demonstrate their ability to displace rapidly and generate significant combat power in an expeditionary environment. Additionally, FF 12 will allow MAG-12 to improve aviation combat integration across all echelons of the Marine Air

Ground Task Force and heighten expeditionary readiness.

The inclusion of three MV-22B Ospreys from VMM-265 provides a unique opportunity for MAG-12 to incorporate the diverse capabilities of the aircraft into MAG-level exercises.

This is the first exercise that the Ospreys have participated in since they have replaced the aging CH-46 helicopters in Okinawa and it is important that the MAW execute the unique capabilities that the MV-22 brings.

The MV-22 is a highly capable aircraft with an excellent operational safety record. The aircraft combines the vertical capability of a helicopter with the speed and range of a fixed-wing aircraft. With its prop-rotors in vertical position, it can take off, land, and hover like a helicopter. Once airborne, its prop rotors can be rotated to transition the aircraft to a turbo-prop airplane capable of high-speed, high-altitude flight.

The MV-22 was chosen to replace the CH-46 to introduce a revolutionary change in capabilities absent in helicopters—a leap forward in speed, payload, and range. When compared to a CH-46, the MV-22 is roughly twice as fast, can carry nearly

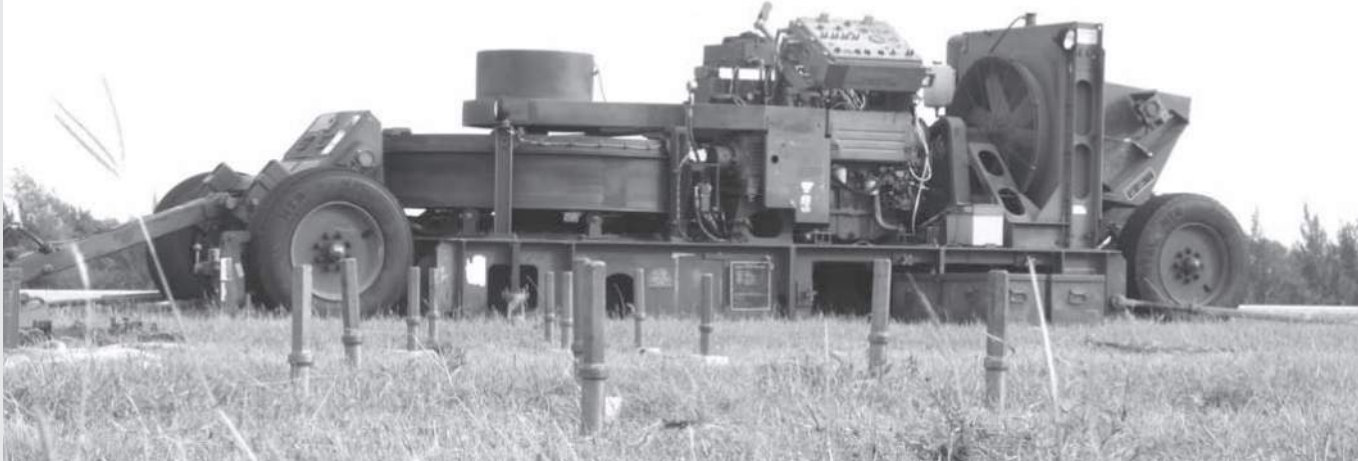
three times the payload and has approximately four times the combat radius. Additionally, the MV-22 has the ability to operate at much higher altitudes and refuel while airborne.

The vertical take-off and landing capability of the MV-22, combined with increased speed and extended range enables the squadron to provide assault support transport of combat troops, supplies and equipment during expeditionary, joint or combined operations. Training enables the squadron to respond to short-notice, worldwide employment in support of Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations.

Since October 2003, MV-22s have successfully assisted in humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations in Haiti, participated in the recovery of a downed U.S. pilot in Libya, supported combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and conducted multiple Marine Expeditionary Unit deployments.

MV-22 aircraft will operate primarily out of Andersen AB, but will execute missions throughout the MIRC and Northern Marianna Islands in order to exercise the diverse capabilities the aircraft brings to the MAW. **(PR)**

Surge operations in Marines exercise



An M-31 Marine Corps Expeditionary Arresting Gear System is placed on Tinian’s West Field Dec. 2 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012. The trailer is designed to allow aircraft to perform arrested landings. During FF12, the MCEAGS will land F/A-18 Hornet aircraft at a rate of one every 3-5 minutes.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/SGT. JUSTIN M. PACK

NAVAL COMPUTER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AREA MASTER STATION, Guam—Forager Fury 2012 kicked off Nov. 29 and will transition to 24-hour surge operations Dec. 10 to Dec. 14 on Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Tinian’s West Field, and Farallon De Medinilla Target Range.

FF 12 is firmly grounded in the successes and lessons learned from exercise Geiger Fury 2012, which was conducted by Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine

Expeditionary Force, on the Marianna Island Range Complex during May of 2012. Residents of Yigo and Dededo should anticipate increased noise during these Marine Corps night flying operations. During FF 12 surge operations, Anderson AFB will serve as the MAG-12 forward operating base and will be the venue for the MAG-12 operations center. Training on Tinian’s West Field includes emplacement of arresting gear and fuel storage/distribution for purposes of extending aviation training throughout the MIRC.

Approximately 700 personnel are participating in the Aviation Training Relocation training on Guam and around 100 personnel are participating in the exercise on Tinian. FF 12 provides an excellent opportunity for Marine forces to demonstrate their ability to displace rapidly and generate significant combat power in an expeditionary environment. Additionally, FF 12 will allow MAG-12 to improve aviation combat integration across all echelons of the Marine Air Ground Task Force and heighten expeditionary readiness. **(PR)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
P.O. Box 520059
Tinian, MP 96952
Tel: (670) 433-2200 • Fax: (670) 433-1819
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room, 1st Floor, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION²

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Review and Adoption of the 2012 Fall Semester, Academic Year 2012-2013 Applications
2. Declaration of Income and Expenditures
3. 2012 Fall Semester Award Disbursement Schedule

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI.

1. Review and Comment-Municipal Scholarship Act Amendments: S.L. 17-85, S1


VII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

VIII. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING


IX. ADJOURNMENT

/S/ LYDIA F. BARCINAS
Chairwoman

¹ We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
Individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB Office 48hours prior to scheduled meeting for assistance.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-011
SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF MATERIALS FOR ISLAND WIDE WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of materials for island wide waterline repairs in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-13-011, supply and delivery of materials for island wide waterline repairs, Saipan, CNMI” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 08, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualifications should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.


All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 21, 2012 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NMC13-001

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS SERVICES

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed proposal from qualified firms as an “Independent Auditor” to perform a financial and compliance audit for the College.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Tuesday, December 04, 2012, between the hours of 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Proposal Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., January 4th, 2013, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950.

For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anitac@nmcnet.edu).

Discussion may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision aof proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers.

NMC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and/or to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole discretion, to do so will be in the best interest of the College. All proposals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ David J. Attao
Dean of Administration

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 287Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

What next in Syria?

After 20 months and tens of thousands of deaths, the civil war in Syria may be reaching a turning point. The ragtag group of rebels that took up arms during the Arab Spring has advanced to the outskirts of Damascus and has a credible chance, if all goes well, of ousting the Assad dynasty that has ruled the country for more than 40 years. Should the United States, which mostly has confined its involvement to fruitless efforts to oust President Bashar Assad through economic sanctions, belatedly get involved militarily? It's a tough call, especially as the humanitarian crisis deepens, but we remain unpersuaded.

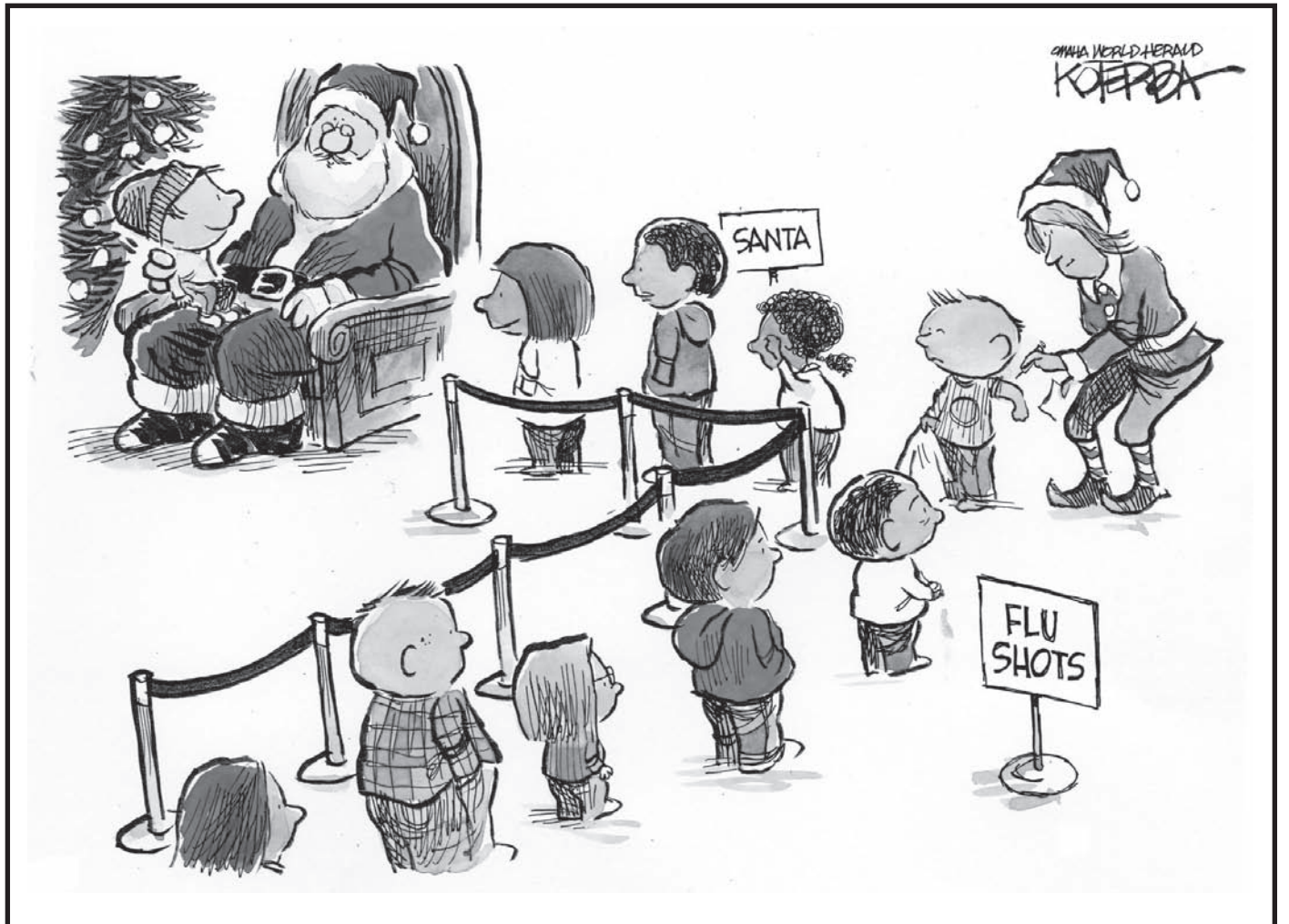
War-weary after prolonged conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Obama administration and its allies early on ruled out direct military intervention in Syria, even the sort of no-fly zone that served as a cover for air attacks on the regime of Moammar Gadhafi in Libya. That was and remains the correct course, with the important exception President Obama again hinted at this week: the possible use of U.S. forces if necessary to prevent Assad from using chemical weapons against his own people. (On Tuesday, NATO also approved the deployment of Patriot anti-missile batteries along Turkey's border with Syria.)

The harder question has been whether the United States should provide arms directly to the rebels, as some Arab nations have done. During the presidential campaign, Mitt Romney pledged to ensure that the rebels "obtain the arms they need to defeat Assad's tanks, helicopters and fighter jets"—but only after identifying anti-Assad forces "who share our values." That has been precisely the rub for the Obama administration, which wants to be sure that a new infusion of arms wouldn't end up in the hands of Islamic fundamentalists, as weapons from other sources apparently have. It's true that the rebels these days are more united and better organized than they were, and better known to the United States, which is seriously considering recognizing them as the "legitimate representative" of the Syrian people. Still, so long as there is a possibility that military aid would miscarry, the prudent course is not to provide it.

Some advocates of military assistance for the rebels see it as a way for the U.S. and its allies to ingratiate themselves with the government that would follow Assad. The administration, however, seems to be contemplating a different strategy for influencing events in a post-Assad Syria: linking future aid to the formation of a broad-based and inclusive government, one that wouldn't discriminate against Alawites, Christians and other minorities that fear Assad's overthrow.

If the rebels are successful, there will be inevitable second-guessing about whether the U.S. should have done more to assist them. But, wrenching as the bloodshed in Syria has been, the Obama administration has been wise to focus on diplomatic and economic pressure on the Assad regime and on humanitarian aid rather than military intervention. This was not our battle.

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Suggested methods and actions to promote our economy

We in the CNMI have many opportunities to create a prosperous economy, but somehow we fail to do so. For some inexplicable reason we fail to see that we are surrounded by many opportunities. So as usual I am going to stick my neck out and discuss some of them in the hope that some of us will consider their economic possibilities. Frankly speaking, some of the ideas are ones that were shared with me by Bill Stewart over a year ago. After reviewing them, think why they have not been implemented.

Have we identified and documented business opportunities open to foreign investors? Do we do any advertising to let foreign investors know what we have to offer? Are we using the Internet, trade journals, *Wall Street Journal*, or the *Asian Economic Review*? Do we send out trade missions seeking investors? To encourage investors to come here we must reach out. What advantages do we offer them in selecting our CNMI over other locations?

Why not display a large sign at the airport displaying a welcome to potential investors and informing them who to contact for more information about business opportunities? Do we have anyone in the government who is qualified to service intelligently all inquiries for information from potential investors completely and promptly? Why not assign a particular individual to each investment inquiry and project? Then follow up!

We cry about the decline of tourists but should their number increase, where do we house them? The Palms Resort has been shuttered for a long time with no date for reopening. The Plumeria Hotel has fallen into such terrible condition that several investors who looked at it realized that it would be cheaper to tear it down and rebuild than to renovate it. Why did we let this happen? Where are our hotel rooms for increasing tourism? Recently a new airline opened up and will be flying many more tourists to Saipan supposedly in January. Where will they be housed?

Just recently the newspapers discussed a "deal" about an ice breaker ferry boat that the governor is interested to carry passengers and cargo or cars between the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam. But it need not be a secret because funds are available for such an investment. There is a federal program providing government guarantees to enable ship owners to borrow private sector funds on terms that may not otherwise be available. The program guarantees up to 87.5 percent of a loan at fixed rates with a long-term maturity. Anybody interested? Check it out.

For the small local business person, check out some of the following ideas that can produce a profitable business. Consider papaya jam or marmalade. How about pickled and canned papaya, frozen papaya, papaya juice, banana chips? We can make pudding, frozen or canned mango juice. Growing flowers as a business has always been a good business. They have a high value in relations to bulk

By **ANTHONY PELLEGRINO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



and can be flown to Guam or to Asian markets. The list goes on. It is limited only by our imagination.

It appears that many retirees have been withdrawing and will continue to withdraw their full retirement checks before the Retirement Fund goes totally belly up. In some cases this will amount to a sizeable amount of cash. What to do with it to receive a safe and good return? Depositing it in a typical certificate of deposit in a bank will return about 1 percent to at most 2 percent with no appreciation of money. While a CD is a safe place to place the money, it will never grow. Unless you are skilled in playing the stock market, stay away if you don't want to lose your money. But there is a better place to invest it in where your money will grow over the years.

Think of all the houses for sale on Saipan. Consider buying a property in a good community or with a good view and rent it out to visitors. Many of our citizens are fleeing the islands so make an offer they cannot refuse. Being an indigenous citizen you can own the land. Over the years the house and land will appreciate in value. Many banks will give out mortgages for a fraction of the total cost and appraised value of the property. Suppose we buy a house for \$85,000 with 25 percent deposit with the balance repayment spread out over 20 or 30 years. Let's say the monthly mortgage is \$400 plus or minus. Now we rent the house for about \$500 per month. The rental income pays our mortgage, and eventually we own the house and land with it. The house and land will appreciate over the years. Initially we put down only 25 percent. Wow! What a deal!

Frankly speaking, I am currently doing this and it is working. Our land and houses will appreciate. I have seen this happen in Japan and I have seen this happen in Hawaii. Check this idea out with your friendly real estate agent and see if it works or not.

Let me digress for minute and touch on a delicate but serious subject. We are slowly being deprived of our nonresident labor force by our federal government. As we are all aware we are burdened with CW1 status workers and no one except the federal government knows what will happen in 2014. Will we have workers or not? How can any of us in business expand or how can any investor desire to invest here when there is so much uncertainty? Is any-

See **ECONOMY** on Next Page

Sensian Tumautau

Ha fatta mañan nosiakassu kulan apacha', tat puntan tanu' ti hafatoigue pot huntan kuraliñg, bola yan guihan. Mientras kumarerera, sige ha' lokue' i ekonomian i tanu' mafondu ya mama' guafen sasalaguan 'nai sige hana' fan tostus i publiku.

Malefa i maga'lahe haf' taimanu fatoña guihe na puestu. Ma-intregague' inañgokun publiku ni hafa' basula. Ume'ensinahyau pa'gu para u reskata ayu na diskuidu lau inipos atrasau. Lastima!

Este na diskuidu taya' ni haye siña tan sogne solu i maga'lahe ni lumachai tumula'e mangachoñgña. Uttimoña i hagas hafa' si kopas chumule' i mayoria gi lehislatura. Haf' 'ste na champuladu ni kimadu.

Hombre gi mas manfamosu siha na eskuelan bisnis yan manehante, man-masosoyu' i estudiante para u ta'lun umebalua haf' sesu guinefen niha fuera ke mas tatkilu' na puestu yan sueddu.

I sineyu' pot to'a yan antau na sensian a'ayuda gi adelanton i prohimumu deste che'chu' esta'i komunida. Este na sensia, mas hana' fitme haligen prosperu na kinalamten todus. Ti este masusesede pa'gu soluke todutalibes. Lastima!

Maestra yan maestro

I maestra pat maestru ni mauleg gi offisioña, anog animuña sa' man-atbansau estudianteña gi leksion niha ya man-adiñganiyon na famaguon.

Hana' guaha tiempu para u adiñgan pat konbetsiasune i mañainan estudiante siha. Esta i modun liñguahiña gi mañaina sumen agradesiyon.

Ha fañagu este animu gi saina yan patgoña gi prekekuran leksion yan kondukta. Sumen lagse' i patgon manuñgu' diariu. Namagof para i saina yan likidu na dignu para i maestra pat maestru. Kon-

tentuyu' gi man-maestra yan maestru sa' diariu maplaneneha haf' i sigiente semana na leksion para i estudianten niha.

Finana'guen hinemlu'

Para mona, mas taya' fondu para i programman medical referral. Este na chinatsaga fuetsau ha birague' halom gi familia para uttimu disision.

Mauleg ta komprende lokue' na este na setbisiu ti direchu solu prebiblehiu. Rason? Gai direchu kada unu numa'e animu humomlu'. I para un' faisen i otu a'apase tax para u kubre gaston medical referral, ti direchu.

Pot esso, i mafaman hinemlu gi famaguonta debi u tutuhongue' ginen halom guma'. Siempre menos chetnot ti amtiyon gi halom tautau-ta.

Pot ihemplo: Esta ta tuñgu' na tres klasen chetnot sessu ha tomba i natibu tat kumu diabetes, chetnot korason yan kanset. Taya' kampu gigon nina'ye hau unu gi tres pesti. Ayu mina' mauleg ta tutuhon finana'guen homlu' na bisiu pot hinemlu. Mas menos seriusu na kondision gi famaguonta yangin deste pa'gu ta fana'gue siha mau-leg pot hinemlo' niha.

Chetnot Amku'

Dispues de sena, umega' i dos amku' TV ya sige magap. Mañiku si Tan Piñg as Nan Lia ya ha ulus kanaiña. Ilegña si Nan Lia: "Un' ratu ha' fan Piñg, un' hassu i 14 na famaguon ni todutalibes hinanau niha? Estague' 'nai matutuhon ya guahu kumatga nuebe mesis kada unu dispues de yinite'mu balan nuebe". Ha heddugue' si Tan Piñg ya maigu tuyan.

the renewal of CW permits, among others. We're not done yet with the initial CW permit application problems yet here comes other problems that we are about experience. The seven of us cannot express the merit of our lawsuit in legal terms because we are not lawyers but it is obviously being experienced by foreign workers now and in the years to come.

The report said, "U.S. Department of Homeland Security arrived at a 15,000 cap on CW-1 workers for fiscal year 2013 and these cap will be reduced to zero comes 2014". These USCIS cap of 15,000 down to zero is no longer a problem on the part of the USCIS as foreign workers are now leaving the island one at a time due to the economic downturn and the uncertainties of the final regulations. Foreign workers with pending CW applications are hopeless that somehow their CW applications will be granted and some of them are about to leave and/or leaving the island, only to find out the next day that there is some relief for them. These are the facts that affect foreign workers' life and liberty.

Foreign workers came to the island legally to work for a living and follow the rules but they are also being driven back home by the conflicting rules. Some who have established families and have planned to stay for good could hardly find their way to stay legally due to the final regulations.

CNMI government officials and employers have been asking for an extension of the transition period, so that the CNMI will still have access to foreign workers to supplement the available U.S. workforce in the mainly tourism-based economy. These two entities are concerned only for their own favor and their own personal gain. What about the foreign workers' livelihood and the future of their families? Foreign workers will eventually end up worrying day by day.

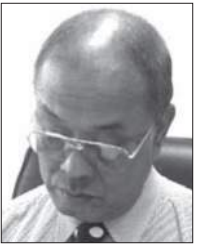
Extending the final regulation will also extend the agony of all foreign workers. Foreign workers are treated as merely disposable human beings. There is a saying that "America is the land of opportunity" but where is that opportunity if at the end of the day foreign workers are forced to leave the islands after a decade of being legally documented aliens and/or workers.

To my fellow foreign workers, let us not rely on the daily or monthly changes in the USCIS rules. Let us prepare ourselves for any eventualities on or before 2014. There is still time to save some of our hard earned money, examine your personal belongings that can't be transported back home, and start reducing it to zero by 2014. We cannot change U.S. laws but U.S. lawmakers can. We cannot dictate them what to do, but they can do it if they want to. What we can do is

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



'Nai hinatme Saipan ni Amerikanu, duru i pakpak bomb gi kat-kuet. Sige lokue' i dos amku' umensinahyau para u atok gi liyañg. Gi karera, kada ratu hinegsi si Tun Jose ni asaguaña an matompu' i biha. Dispues de kuattro biahe, lalalu' si Tun Jose ya ilegña, "Haf' Maria, esta para hohotse ha' taya' esta para falagu?" A' Saina!

Megai gi entre hita pumadedese probleman troñkun niyog. Malago' hit dumeskansa lau sige ha' i mañglo' man-estotba sa' duru manguaife. Siempre u kayada, pues cha'mu hinahalañg. Dispues, taiguine ha' i pañgpañg napun diariu gi ha'anita: tatnai mattu haf' dinisehata kabales. Kada mona, tatte ya guaha na memegaiña na gaige gi santatte.

Ha faisenyu' un' ñietu haf' na sessu hu bisita iya siha. Era ti obra humugandon machaleg sa' gaigeyu'. Hu chagua manbisita pot kulan ha diseseha i patgon mismu kampoña. Dispues de un' mes, mmaisen hafa na ti mafattuyu'. Iridau gi bandan atayo'ña sa' buente guaha ha totbus. Mamatkilyu' sa' guiya ayu hagas muna' fuguyu' gi fatachoñghu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On FW-CW renewal

"Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration."—Abraham Lincoln

"USCIS Honolulu district director David Gulick said that, without a valid permit past the original CW permit expiration date, the alien worker no longer has employment authorization. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services recommends that employers file renewal applications at least 90 days prior to the original permit's expiration. If the employer files the renewal applications at least 90 days prior to the expiration of the original permit but USCIS has not been able to make a decision on the renewal application past the expiration date, then the employee still needs to stop working to comply with the rules and law. But, according to Mr. Gulick, USCIS Application Service Center will do its best to process CW permit renewals faster than the initial processing of CW permits.

Meaning foreign workers will have to stop working pending the release of CW-1 renewal? Does this mean that foreign workers will also have to stop all their activities that need financial resources in the absence of payroll money due to stoppage of work? Does this mean also that businesses will have to stop their operations for a while pending the release of the renewed CW-1 permit? For how long is the waiting time?

Understandably, there are really no perfect regulations. But if the unperfected regulations affect the lives, liberty, and freedom of human beings, that is an act of deprivation. The USCIS final regulations are really defective and need to be addressed by the authorities.

While USCIS keeps changing and revising rules overnight, foreign workers and employers are experiencing confusion and are disturbed their peace of mind, as to what and when will be the next bulletin from USCIS that will bring another problem, in addition to the current unsolved problems. Seven of us have foreseen this predicament even before the final regulations' effective date. That is why we filed a lawsuit to extend the implementation of the final regulations for at least 180 days. Foreign workers are now about to suffer irreparable harm and irrevocable damage due to denials of CW permit applications, ordering some to depart U.S. soil, and now

to show to them that we are productive individuals.

I would like to believe that there are some reliefs coming in, such as "parole extension" for those who are covered with the pending H.B 1466 but this is not enough. Should the final rules change again in the next couple of days and grant us relief by allowing us to apply for permanent residency, again we need to apply and work for it. We definitely need financial resources to switch immigration status and/or in flying back home. Remember, "There is no shortcut to citizenship." We must work and prepare for it.

"Do not wait to strike till the iron is hot; but make it hot by striking."—William Butler Yeats

Carlito J. Marquez

Puerto Rico, Saipan

Thank you and God bless

To my brothers and sisters who have criticized me in the media, restaurant gatherings, party gatherings, and even during government working hours, I say to you all, "Thank you and God bless you." I will continue to pray for you all and ask God to forgive you because you have never known what you have been doing. I will never hesitate to step back because God is my protector. He's the only one given the power to kill the body and soul. As for my presence at the Tinian Senior Citizen Center, I am already here reporting to work. If the critics are saying they do not like me because my DNA is Carolinian or I'm from Saipan, then what is the difference between Martin M. Sakisat and Evelyn F. David? Think deep into your soul and answer this before you go to bed at night.

If the critics give me the opportunity to perform my job, rest assured that I will perform my job with intellectuality, dedication, commitment, love, and devotion. I will always pray for sound decisions, the safety and good health of the senior citizens, and love and affections among all employees at the Tinian Senior Citizens Center. I want to thank God for giving me a job to be assigned to the Tinian Senior Citizen Center. I want to thank all of my superiors. And I want to recognize all of my superiors for a job well done.

Martin M. Sakisat

San Jose, Tinian

ECONOMY

From Page 10

one in the local government assigned to dialogue closely with the federal government to help resolve this major problem? Or are we just waiting for the other shoe to drop?

I find it difficult to accept the fact that about 11,000 of our local people are on food stamps and about 11,000 nonresident workers are working here. How do we explain this to ourselves?

To me this is one of our most serious contradictions. Why does our government look the other way on this matter? Why is there no motivation and incentive given to people to encourage them to become employees instead of food stamp liners up? We should encourage them to become workers and earn their own bread. Yes, I seem to simplify a complex problem, but we must wrestle with it and not turn our eyes away. Our people must become the workers of our community.

We have a prosperous market di-

rectly south of us—Guam. We have so much in common yet we act as though we are strangers to one another. There is so much that we can do to benefit each other. Instead we seem to compete against each other. Our two governments should be working closer together. We need each other. We can become their food basket. Tourism can be extended to include our islands as well as Guam. But then, I am a dreamer.

As I repeatedly state, I am not trying to solve all our problems but I am try-

ing to get us to think about how to solve them. Unfortunately we have egos that keep us apart and do not let us stretch our hands in cooperation. Problems are created by us and thus we can solve them if we desire to. Remember: poverty is a state of mind; being broke is a temporary situation. Let's start becoming prosperous again.

It is sad to see and hear all the negative thoughts running through our community when we should be more united than ever. Review the statistics published in the media this past week about

the imbalance being created among the indigenous and non-indigenous population. Where are our people fleeing to and why? Is there nothing we can do to reverse this trend? Maybe it is better. Years later we can read about the Marianas Islands called Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Think it cannot happen? It's not too late to fix up our islands. But then I am a dreamer!

Have a great week and keep smiling! Your smile is a beacon into each other's heart. Give a smile and receive a smile in return!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

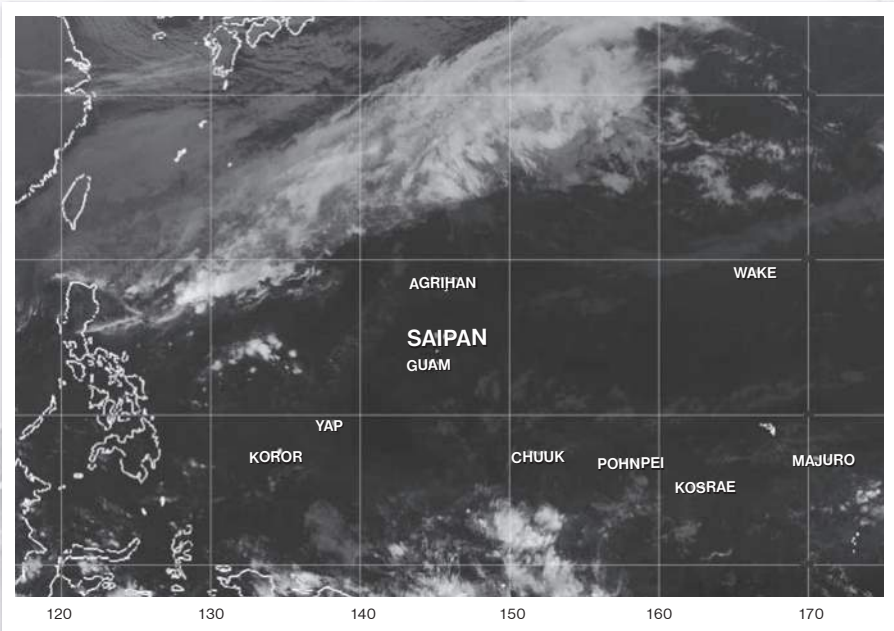
TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy on Thursday afternoon.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy on Thursday afternoon.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.
▲87° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲87 ▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Majuro	Sunny	▲87 ▼81

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▼58
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲33 ▼15
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲68 ▼61
Honolulu	Showers	▲80 ▼71
London	Mostly Sunny	▲40 ▼35
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲72 ▼49
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼79
Melbourne	Sunny	▲82 ▼51
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼73
New York	Showers	▲61 ▼42
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲47 ▼38
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲41 ▼32
Pusan	Sunny	▲41 ▼28
Rome	Showers	▲54 ▼36
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲49 ▼38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲65 ▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲28 ▼12
Tokyo	Sunny	▲50 ▼33
Washington, DC	Showers	▲67 ▼46

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
5:17 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:23 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
4:11 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
11:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front north of Wake Island extends southwestward from 25N170E to 20N150E then meanders westward as a stationary front to beyond 130E at 18N. Patchy clouds and showers are along and up to 200 miles northwest of the cold front. More extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are along and north of the stationary front to beyond 25N. A surface trough runs northwestward from 1N157E to 5N146E. Scattered showers are near Chuuk and Pohnpei between 7N and the equator from 150E to 160E. Another surface trough near Kosrae runs from 3N161E to 6N166E with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 6N and 2N from 160E to 167E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers across Tarawa and Butaritari between 5N and the equator from 170E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:32 AM	5:47 PM	Today	2:53 AM	2:48 PM
Tuesday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM	Saturday	3:55 AM	3:42 PM
Wednesday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM	Sunday	4:59 AM	4:42 PM
Thursday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM	Monday	6:04 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM	Tuesday	7:08 AM	6:50 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOV. 21, 2012									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7		UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7	
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5		UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily	
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily		UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily	
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily		UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily	
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily		UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily	
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-PUSAN (BUS)					PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7		OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6	
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3		OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily		OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU7108	2:50am	5:55am	1, 3, 5		MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)					VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN				
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week		VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT	
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM		UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM	
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT		UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM		UA702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
					UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:20pm	Daily via ICN		UA180/5073	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1, 5 via GUM	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.					ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)				

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency		
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily		
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily		
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily		
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily		
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily		
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily		
Rota-Saipan									
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan					
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily		
Saipan-Rota				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily		
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily		
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily		
FRE 100	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily		
Saipan-Rota				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily		
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily		
Rota-Guam				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily		
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily		
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily		
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily		
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily		
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily		
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily						
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily						
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily						

Business

US job gains defy Sandy and fears of fiscal cliff

WASHINGTON (AP)—It takes more than a superstorm to derail the U.S. job market.

Employers added 146,000 jobs in November and the unemployment rate dipped to 7.7 percent, a four-year low, the government said Friday.

Though modest, the job growth was encouraging because it defied disruptions from Superstorm Sandy and employers' concerns about impending tax increases from the year-end "fiscal cliff."

Analysts said the job market's underlying strength suggests that if the White House and Congress can reach a budget deal to avoid the cliff, hiring and economic growth could accelerate next year.

A budget agreement would coincide with gains in key sectors of the economy.

Builders are breaking ground on more homes, which should increase construction hiring. U.S. automakers just enjoyed their best sales month in nearly five years. And a resolution of

the fiscal cliff could lead businesses to buy more industrial machinery and other heavy equipment. That would generate more manufacturing jobs.

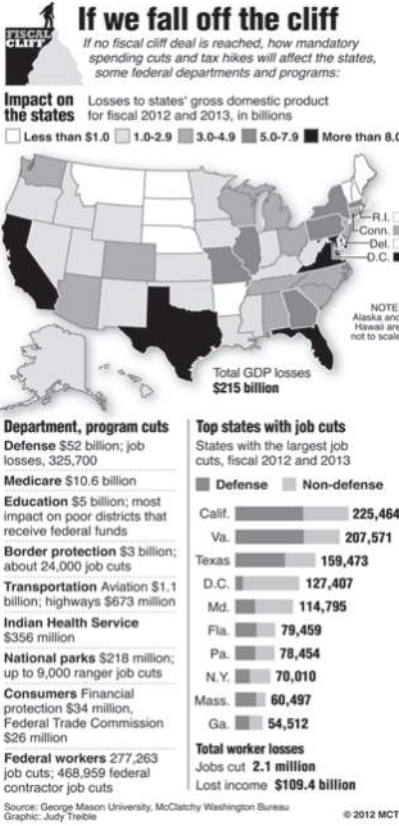
"The ground is being prepared for faster growth," said Nigel Gault, an economist at IHS Global Insight.

House GOP leader John Boehner said Friday that the two sides had made little progress in talks seeking a deal to steer clear of the cliff.

The White House used Friday's mixed jobs report as an argument to push President Barack Obama's proposed tax-rate increases for top earners, public works spending and refinancing help for struggling homeowners.

Superstorm Sandy, contrary to expectations, dampened job growth only minimally in November, the government said. Job gains were roughly the same as this year's 150,000 monthly average, and the unemployment rate fell two-tenths of a percentage point to its lowest level since December 2008.

That suggests that fears about the cliff haven't led employers to cut staff,



though they aren't hiring aggressively, either. The economy must produce roughly twice November's job gain to quickly lower the unemployment rate.

Friday's report included some discouraging signs. Employers added 49,000 fewer jobs in October and September combined than the government had initially estimated. Monthly job totals come from a survey of 140,000 companies and government agencies, which together employ about 1 in 3 nonfarm workers in the United States.

The unemployment rate, derived from a separate survey of households, fell because 229,000 people without jobs stopped looking for work and so were no longer counted as unemployed.

The household survey asks about 60,000 households whether the adults have jobs and whether those who don't are looking for one. Those without a job who are seeking one are counted as unemployed. Those who aren't looking aren't counted as unemployed.

Pilots approve new contract with American Airlines

DALLAS (AP)—American Airlines is closer to exiting from bankruptcy and possibly merging with US Airways after its pilots approved a new labor contract.

With the pilots' deal announced Friday, American has negotiated new, lower-cost contracts with all its unions since filing for bankruptcy protection just over a year ago.

Company executives insist the savings will let American compete as an independent airline. But rival US Airways has been pressing to merge, arguing that both must get bigger to succeed against huge rivals United and Delta. And US Airways executives want to run the combined company.

American and US Airways will keep talking about a potential deal. Thomas Horton, the CEO of American parent AMR Corp., said Friday that his company could make a decision soon.

But with AMR in bankruptcy, it could be its creditors who make the call. The pilots' contract was the last big unknown in American's restructuring, and creditors are likely to turn now to whether they would make more money if American merges or remains on its own.

The Allied Pilots Association announced Friday that 74 percent of its members voted to ratify a new contract three months after they rejected a similar offer. Union leaders lobbied hard for passage the second time around. They favor a merger and believe that Friday's vote made a deal more likely.

Democrats want jobless benefits in 'cliff' deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hovering in the background of the "fiscal cliff" debate is the prospect of 2 million people losing their unemployment benefits four days after Christmas.

"This is the real cliff," said Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I. He's been leading the effort to include another extension of benefits for the long-term unemployed in any deal to avert looming tax increases and massive spending cuts in January.

"Many of these people are struggling to pay mortgages, to provide education for their children," Reed said this past week as President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, rejected each other's opening offers for a deficit deal.

Emergency jobless benefits for about 2.1 million people out of work more than six months will cease Dec. 29, and 1 million more will lose them over the next three months if Congress doesn't extend the assistance again.

Since the collapse of the economy in 2008, the government has poured \$520 billion—an amount equal to about half its annual deficit in recent years—into unemployment benefit extensions.

White House officials have assured Democrats that Obama is committed to extending them another year, at a cost of about \$30 billion, as part of an agreement for sidestepping the fiscal cliff and reducing the size of annual increases in the federal debt.

"The White House has made it clear that it wants an extension," said Michigan Rep. Sander Levin, the top Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee.

Republicans have been relatively quiet on the issue lately. They demanded and won savings elsewhere to offset the cost of this year's extension, requiring the government to sell some of its broadcasting airwaves and making newly hired federal workers contribute more toward their pensions.

Boehner did not include jobless benefits in his counteroffer response this past week to Obama's call for \$1.6 trillion in new taxes over the next decade, including raising the top marginal rates

for the highest-paid 2 percent.

Long-term unemployment remains a persistent problem. About 5 million people have been out of work for six months or more, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's about 40 percent of all unemployed workers.

The Labor Department said Friday that the unemployment rate fell to 7.7 percent from 7.9 percent, the lowest in nearly four years. But much of the decline was due to people so discouraged about finding a job that they quit looking for one.

Democrats have tried to keep a flame burning under the issue. Ending the extended benefits would "deal a devastating blow to our economy," 42 Democratic senators wrote Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., this past week.

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Nation

Boustany defeats Landry for La. congressional seat

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—Louisiana congressman Charles Boustany won a fifth term on Saturday by handily defeating his fellow Republican incumbent, Jeff Landry, in a runoff election.

The two men were forced into the same district when Louisiana lost a congressional seat because of anemic population growth in the latest federal census. The state will have six U.S. House seats in the new term that begins in January.

Boustany, a retired doctor from Lafayette, will represent the 3rd District covering southwest Louisiana and Acadiana.

"We're glad to get this done," he said Saturday night. "This looks like a very solid victory. We had a very strong ground game, which was a key element in the runoff. We reached out to a lot of voters with a solid message backed by the results I've gotten in Congress."

With nearly all precincts reporting, Boustany was ahead of Landry by a 3-2 margin. About one-fifth of district voters cast ballots.

The race had been attack-heavy, since both men ran as conservative Republicans opposed to the policies of President Barack Obama and had little philosophical ground in



In this July 21, 2011 file photo House Ways and Means Oversight subcommittee Chairman Rep. Charles Boustany, R-La., speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington.

which to distinguish themselves.

The district design favored Boustany, a traditional Republican candidate allied with House Speaker John Boehner. Landry, a freshman congressman, was the tea party favorite, but he was unable to build enough grassroots support to oust Boustany.

Pearson Cross, chairman of the political science department at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, said Boustany was the "de-facto incumbent" throughout the race.

"Most voters in the district have voted for Charles Boustany, think he's done a good job, are comfortable with him,"

Cross said.

Landry said it was difficult to overcome Boustany's advantage in the district design. Boustany had represented more than two-thirds of the parishes in the configuration of the new 3rd District.

"In those parishes that I represented, we did extremely well.

In those parishes that he represented, he did well. It's kind of tough when seven out of 10 of those parishes were his," Landry said.

Though they had three other

challengers in the November election, the two congressmen had campaigned as though it was a two-man race since the election sign-up period in August.

Soldier's slaying in US is bitter irony for family

DENVER (AP)—Army Spc. Brandy Fonteneaux's death came not on a battlefield in Afghanistan but on an infantry post in Colorado—allegedly at the hand of a fellow soldier—and that makes the pain even worse for her family.

The 28-year-old from Houston had been stabbed 74 times when she was found in her room in a Fort Carson barracks on Jan. 8, Army investigators said. Officials said she had also been choked.

"We could have taken this much better if Brandy had been killed in war," said Fonteneaux's aunt, Bevenley Thomas, who raised her from infancy. "But to be murdered here in the U.S. in your barracks in your sleep is just not right."

A court-martial is scheduled to start Monday for Sgt. Vincinte Jackson, an Army combat engineer charged with murder and premeditated murder in Fonteneaux's death.

If convicted, his sentence

could range from life in prison with a chance for parole in as few as 10 years to life in prison without possibility of parole, Army officials said.

His attorneys declined to comment.

Jackson, an eight-year Army veteran from Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., was 40 at the time of the killing. He was with the 576th Engineer Company, 4th Engineer Battalion. Fonteneaux was a food operations specialist in the 4th Engineer Battalion.

Authorities haven't publicly divulged any motive for the killing. There was no evidence Fonteneaux was sexually assaulted, Thomas said, although Army officials told the family some of her clothing had been removed or pushed up to her neck.

Fonteneaux knew Jackson but they were not close, Thomas said. Fonteneaux had told her family that Jackson confided in her about his crumbling marriage.



Bevenley Thomas, right, talks about niece Army Spc. Brandy Fonteneaux shown in a family snapshot as she stands beside her sister and Brandy's mother Verona Fonteneaux Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012, in Houston.

NY mostly ignored reports warning of superstorm

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—More than three decades before Superstorm Sandy, a state law and a series of legislative reports began warning New York politicians to prepare for a storm of historic proportions, spelling out scenarios eerily similar to what actually happened: a towering storm surge; overwhelming flooding; swamped subway lines; widespread power outages. The Rockaway peninsula was deemed among the "most at risk."

But most of the warnings and a requirement in a 1978 law to create a regularly updated plan for the restoration of "vital services" after a storm went mostly unheeded, either because of tight budgets or the lack of political will to prepare for a hypothetical storm that may never hit.

Some of the thorniest problems

after Sandy, including a gasoline shortage, the lack of temporary housing and the flooding of commuter tunnels, ended up being dealt with largely on the fly.

"I don't know that anyone believed," acknowledged Gov. Andrew Cuomo this past week. "We had never seen a storm like this. So it is very hard to anticipate something that you have never experienced."

Asked how well prepared state officials were for Sandy, Cuomo said, "not well enough."

It wasn't as if the legislative actions over the years were subtle. They all had a common, emphatic theme: Act immediately before it's too late.

The 1978 executive law required a standing state Disaster Preparedness Commission to

meet at least twice a year to create and update disaster plans. It mandated the state to address temporary housing needs after a disaster, create a detailed plan to restore services, maintain sewage treatment, prevent fires, assure generators "sufficient to supply" nursing homes and other health facilities, and "protect and assure uninterrupted delivery of services, medicines, water, food, energy and fuel."

Reports in 2005, 2006 and 2010 added urgency. "It's not a question of whether a strong hurricane will hit New York City," the 2006 Assembly report warned. "It's just a question of when."

A 2010 task force report to the Legislature concluded: "The combination of rising sea level,

continuing climate change, and more development in high-risk areas has raised the level of New York's vulnerability to coast storms. ... The challenge is real, and sea level rise will progress regardless of New York's response."

The Disaster Preparedness Commission met biannually some years, but there are gaps in which there is no record of a meeting. However, some administrations, including Cuomo's, convened many of the same agency heads to discuss emergency management. But even under Cuomo, who has taken a much greater interest in emergency management after three violent storms in his first two years in office, there are still three vacancies on the commission.

ACROSS THE NATION

Washington could become pot source for neighbors

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Now that marijuana is legal in neighboring Washington state, Portland police are offering some helpful advice to Oregon pot users. Sure, you can go over to Washington state to "smoke some weed," a police advisory states, but you might get arrested for driving under the influence if you're pulled over coming home, even if you're on a bike. And if you are among the 55,000

people with an Oregon medical marijuana card, Portland police say you'll be able to get your allowed amount of medicine in Washington state. Still, even though you now can't get busted for toking in Tacoma or elsewhere in Washington (though you could get a ticket for public use), it will be a year before selling or buying it is legal. As the Evergreen state works out the various complications of its new law—including the fact that marijuana is still illegal under federal law—neighbors of

Washington are watching with curiosity, and perhaps some apprehension.

Same-sex weddings in Wash. to begin on Sunday

OLYMPIA, WASH. (AP)—Two retired military women who fought for the rights of gays in the military were among the hundreds of couples who received their marriage licenses this week as Washington state's voter-approved law allowing same-sex marriage took effect.

Former Air Force flight nurse Maj. Margaret Witt, of Spokane, and retired nurse, Army Col. Grethe Cammermeyer, of Whidbey Island, both successfully challenged the military's ban on open service by gays and lesbians. They were first in line on Thursday in their home counties to receive their licenses with their partners. "First, to be able to serve their country openly was in and of itself historical, and a significant step forward for our nation. And now to be able to legally wed the person they love is yet another

historical milestone," said Anne Levinson, a gay rights activist who worked on the campaign to approve same-sex marriage. "They're remarkable women."

Police: Boy, 7, shot to death at Pa. gun store

MERCER, Pa. (AP)—A man's handgun went off while he was holding it as he got into his truck in the parking lot of a western Pennsylvania gun store Saturday, and the shot killed his 7-year-old son, authorities said. Joseph V. Loughrey, 44,

of Sharpsville, was getting into the truck when the 9 mm handgun discharged, wounding Craig Allen Loughrey in the chest, according to state police. The boy died at the scene at Twigs Reloading Den in East Lackawannock Township, 60 miles north of Pittsburgh. Investigators said Loughrey told them he didn't realize there was a bullet still in the chamber. "This happens all too often where people think the gun was empty," Lt. Eric Hermick told The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.

Asia

Storm that killed 600 threatens Philippines again

NEW BATAAN, Philippines (AP)—A typhoon that had left the Philippines after killing nearly 600 people and leaving hundreds missing in the south has made a U-turn and is now threatening the country's north-west, officials said Saturday.

The weather bureau raised storm warnings over parts of the main northern island of Luzon after Typhoon Bopha veered northeast. There was a strong possibility the disastrous storm would make a second landfall Sunday, but it might also make a loop and remain in the South China Sea, forecasters said. In either case, it was moving

close to shore and disaster officials warned of heavy rains and winds and possible landslides in the mountainous region.

Another calamity in the north would stretch recovery efforts thin. Most government resources, including army and police, are currently focused on the south, where Bopha hit Tuesday before moving west into the South China Sea.

With many survivors still in shock, soldiers, police and outside volunteers formed most of the teams searching for bodies or signs of life under tons of fallen trees and boulders swept down from steep hills surround-



ing the worst-hit town of New Bataan, municipal spokesman Marlon Esperanza said.

"We are having a hard time finding guides," he told The Associated Press. "Entire families were killed and the survivors ... appear dazed. They can't move."

He said the rocks, mud, tree trunks and other rubble that litter the town have destroyed landmarks, making it doubly difficult to search places where houses once stood.

On Friday, bodies found jammed under fallen trees that could not be retrieved were marked with makeshift flags made of torn cloth so they could be easily spotted by properly equipped teams.

Authorities decided to bury unidentified bodies in a common grave after forensic officials process them for future identification by relatives, Esperanza said.

The town's damaged public

market has been converted into a temporary funeral parlor. A few residents milled around two dozen white wooden coffins, some containing unidentified remains.

One resident, Jing Maniquiz, 37, said she rushed home from Manila for the wake of two of her sisters, but could not bring herself to visit the place where her home once stood in Andap village. Her parents, a brother and nephew are missing.

North Korea considers delaying rocket launch

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea may postpone the controversial launch of a long-range rocket that had been slated for liftoff as early as this week, state media said Sunday, as international pressure on Pyongyang to cancel the provocative move intensified.

Scientists have been pushing forward with final preparations for the launch from a west coast site, slated to take place as early as Monday, but are considering "readjusting" the timing, an unidentified spokesman for the Korean Committee for Space Technology told North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency.

It was unclear whether diplomatic intervention or technical glitches were behind the delay. A brief KCNA dispatch said scientists and technicians were discussing whether to set new launch dates but did not elaborate.

Word of a possible delay comes just days after satellite

photos indicated that snow may have slowed launch preparations, and as officials in Washington, Seoul, Tokyo, Moscow and elsewhere urged North Korea to cancel a liftoff widely seen as a violation of bans against missile activity.

Commercial satellite imagery taken by GeoEye on Dec. 4 and shared Friday with The Associated Press by the 38 North and North Korea Tech websites showed the Sohae site northwest of Pyongyang covered with snow. The road from the main assembly building to the launch pad showed no fresh tracks, indicating that the snowfall may have stalled the preparations.

However, analysts believed rocket preparations would have been completed on time for liftoff as early as Monday.

In Seoul, officials at the Defense Ministry, Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Foreign Ministry said Sunday they were looking into what might be behind the

possible delay.

North Korea announced earlier this month that it would launch a three-stage rocket mounted with a satellite from its Sohae station southeast of Sinuiju sometime between Dec. 10 and Dec. 22. Pyongyang calls it a peaceful bid to send an observational satellite into space, its second attempt this year.

The launch announcement captured global headlines because of its timing: South Korea and Japan hold key elections this month, President Barack Obama begins his second term next month and China has just formed a new leadership.

The United States, Japan, South Korea and others have urged North Korea to refrain from carrying out the launch, calling it a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions on nuclear activity because the rocket shares the same technology used for firing a long-range missile.



A girl is comforted upon seeing the sealed coffin of her relative at a damaged public market which now serves as a makeshift mortuary for typhoon Bopha's victims at New Bataan township, Compostela Valley in southern Philippines Saturday Dec. 8, 2012.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Vietnamese protest against China over sea dispute

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A group of Vietnamese have demonstrated against China amid rising tensions over Beijing's claims to the South China Sea. The protest Sunday by about 150 people was watched over by police. Anger at China is a sensitive issue for Vietnam's fellow communist rulers, which are worried that popular ire at Beijing could also be directed at them. Vietnam and China have long sparred over who owns the South China Sea, but America's diplomatic tilt to Southeast Asia and China's growing assertiveness has focused attention on the issue. Vietnam last week alleged that Chinese shipping vessels sabotaged one of its seismic survey vessels in the South China Sea.

US-led coalition: US doctor rescued from Taliban

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An American doctor abducted by the Taliban five days ago was rescued Sunday in eastern Afghanistan, the U.S.-led military coalition said. Dr. Dilip Joseph was captured by Taliban insurgents Wednesday outside the Afghan capital, in the Sarobi district of Kabul province. He was rescued in an early morning op-

eration ordered after intelligence showed that the doctor was in imminent danger of injury or possible death, according to a statement. "This was a combined operation of U.S. and Afghan forces," said 1st Lt. Joseph Alonso, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan. "Information was collected through multiple intelligence sources, which allowed Afghan and coalition forces to identify the location of Joseph and the criminals responsible for his captivity."

Chinese officials punished for deadly demolition

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese state media say 17 officials and workers have been punished after two people died during the forced demolition of a building. The official Xinhua News Agency says a cement board fell from the illegally constructed building as it was being demolished Friday in Renhuai city in southwest China's Guizhou province, killing two workers and injuring three others. Xinhua said Saturday that local residents carried the bodies to the city government building, causing a disturbance. It said three officials were criminally detained for dereliction of duty, five others were suspended, and nine workers involved in the demolition were detained.

Myanmar apologizes for violence against monks

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's government apologized for a violent crackdown on Buddhist monks and other foes of a copper mine in north-west Myanmar, which was the biggest use of force against demonstrators since reformist President Thein Sein took office last year.

Religious Affairs Minister Thura Myint Maung formally apologized for the violence to 29 senior monks at a ceremony in Yangon on Friday. His remarks were carried by all state media Saturday.

He said the government felt "extreme sorrow that monks and other people were wounded in the copper mine incident," which he said was mishandled by local authorities in Monywa in the northwest

region of Sagaing.

Local authorities would "ensure that such undesirable incidents do not occur again," he said.

In the Nov. 29 crackdown, police used water cannons, tear gas and smoke bombs to break up an 11-day occupation of the mine project. The mine is a joint venture between a military-controlled holding company and a Chinese mining company. Protesters say it is causing environmental, social and health problems, and want the project halted.

Nearly 100 people, mostly Buddhist monks, were injured during the crackdown, mostly by burns that protesters said were caused by incendiary devices hurled by police.

The crackdown was reminiscent of those the country

faced under military rule. It stirred anger because of the violence against monks, who are held in high regard by the Buddhist country.

The heavy-handed action indicated the government is still unsure where to draw the line on public protests. Thein Sein's government has been hailed for releasing hundreds of political prisoners and for implementing laws allowing public demonstrations and labor strikes.

Many prominent figures, including opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, had urged authorities to apologize.

Monks have staged protests since the crackdown, including one in Mandalay on Saturday that drew several hundred dressed in their saffron-colored robes.

World

UN conference adopts extension of Kyoto accord

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—Seeking to control global warming, nearly 200 countries agreed Saturday to extend the Kyoto Protocol, a treaty that limits the greenhouse gas output of some rich countries, but will only cover about 15 percent of global emissions.

The extension was adopted by a U.N. climate conference after hard-fought sessions and despite objections from Russia. The package of decisions also included vague promises of financing to help poor countries cope with climate change, and an affirmation of a previous decision to adopt a new global climate pact by 2015.

Though expectations were low for the two-week conference in Doha, many developing countries rejected the deal as insufficient to put the world on track to fight the rising temperatures that are shifting weather patterns, melting glaciers and raising sea levels. Some Pacific island nations see this as a threat to their existence.

"This is not where we wanted to be at the end of the meeting, I assure you," said Nauru Foreign Minister Kieren Keke, who leads an alliance of small island states. "It certainly isn't where we need to be in order to prevent islands from going under and other unimaginable impacts."

The two-decade-old U.N. climate talks have so far failed in their goal of reducing the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that a vast



Local and international activists march inside a conferences center to demand urgent action to address climate change at the U.N. climate talks in Doha, Qatar, Friday, Dec. 7, 2012.

majority of scientists says are warming the planet.

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which controls the emissions of rich countries, is considered the main achievement of the negotiations, even though the U.S. rejected it because it didn't impose any binding commitments on China and other emerging economies.

Kyoto was due to expire this year, so failing to agree on an

extension would have been a major setback for the talks. Despite objections from Russia, which opposed rules limiting its use of carbon credits, the accord was extended through 2020 to fill the gap until a wider global treaty is expected to take effect.

However, the second phase only covers about 15 percent of global emissions after Canada, Japan, New Zealand and Russia opted out.

Egypt panel recommends referendum be held on time

CAIRO (AP)—A national dialogue committee said a referendum on a disputed draft constitution will be held on schedule, but President Mohammed Morsi has agreed to rescind the near-absolute power he had granted himself.

The statement came after a meeting that was boycotted by the main opposition leaders who are calling for the Dec. 15 vote to be canceled.

Morsi had called for the dialogue to try to defuse a spiraling crisis, but the decision appeared unlikely to appease the opposition since it recommends the referendum go ahead as scheduled. Morsi's initial declaration was to be rendered ineffective anyway after the referendum.

Gamal Eid, a human rights lawyer, said the recommendations to rescind some powers were a "play on words" since Morsi had already achieved the desired aim of finalizing the draft constitution and protecting it from a judicial challenge.

The charter, which would enshrine Islamic law and was drafted despite a boycott by secular and Christian members of the assembly, is at the heart

of a political crisis that began Nov. 22 when Morsi granted himself authority without judicial oversight.

Opposition activists are camping outside the presidential palace and are calling for more protests on Sunday.

Several rallies on both sides have drawn tens of thousands of people into the streets and sparked fierce bouts of street battles that have left at least six people dead. Several offices of the president's Muslim Brotherhood also have been torched in the unrest.

Selim al-Awa, an Islamist at the meeting, said the committee found it would be a violation of earlier decisions to change the date of the referendum.

However, the committee recommended removing articles that granted Morsi powers to declare emergency laws and shield him from judicial oversight.

Members of the committee said Morsi had agreed to the recommendations, but there was no confirmation from the Islamist leader.

Bassem Sabry, a writer and activist, called the changes a

"stunt" that would embarrass the opposition by making it look like Morsi was willing to compromise but not solve the problem.

"In the end, Morsi got everything he wanted," he said, pointing out the referendum would be held without the consensus Morsi had promised to seek and without giving people sufficient time to study the document.

The majority of the 54 members of the committee were Islamists, as well as members of the constitutional panel that drafted the disputed charter. But the main opponents were not present at the meeting, which lasted over 10 hours.

The panel also said that if the constitution is rejected by voters, Morsi will call for the election of a new drafting committee within three months, a prospect that would prolong the transition.

Opponents say the draft constitution disregards the rights of women and Christians.

The president has insisted his decrees were meant to protect the country's transition to democracy from former regime figures trying to derail it.

Syrian rebels get new leadership in bid to unite

BEIRUT (AP)—Rebel commanders from across Syria have joined forces under a united command they hope will increase coordination between diverse fighting groups and streamline the pathway for arms essential to their struggle against President Bashar Assad.

While many of the brigades involved in the fighting are decidedly Islamist in outlook and some have boasted about executing captured soldiers, two of the most extreme groups fighting in Syria were not invited to the rebel meeting in Turkey or included in the new council—a move that could encourage Western support.

Disorganization has bedeviled Syria's rebel movement since its birth late last year, when some protesters gave up on peaceful means to bring down Assad's regime and took up arms, forming the base of what became the Free Syrian Army.

But the movement has never

actually been an army. Scores of rebel groups battle Assad's forces across the country, many coordinating with no one outside of their own area. While some say they want a civil, democratic government, others advocate an Islamic state.

The new body, expected to be announced officially on Sunday, hopes to form the basis of a united rebel front.

Some 500 delegates elected the 30-person Supreme Military Council and a Chief of Staff on Friday and planned to meet soon with representatives from the opposition's newly reorganized political leadership, participants said.

"The aim of this meeting was to unify the armed opposition to bring down the regime," said a rebel commander from near Damascus who attended the meeting. "It also aims to get the situation under control once the regime falls."

The decisions in Doha mean that in future years, the talks can focus on the new treaty, which is supposed to apply to both rich and poor countries. It is expected to be adopted in 2015 and take effect five years later, but the details haven't been worked out yet.

U.S. climate envoy Todd Stern highlighted one of the main challenges going forward when he said the U.S. couldn't accept a provision in the Doha deal that said the talks should be "guided" by principles laid down in the U.N.'s framework convention for climate change.

That could be interpreted as a reference to the firewall between rich and poor countries that has guided the talks so far, but which the U.S. and other developed countries say must be removed going forward.

"We are now on our way to the new regime," European Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard said. It definitely wasn't an easy ride, but we managed to cross the bridge."

WORLD BRIEFS

Venezuela's Chavez says cancer back, plans surgery

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez announced Saturday night that his cancer has returned and that he will undergo another surgery in Cuba. Chavez, who won re-election on Oct. 7, also said for the first time that if his health were to worsen, his successor would be Vice President Nicolas Maduro. "We should guarantee the advance of the Bolivarian Revolution," Chavez said on television, seated at the presidential palace with Maduro

and other aides. Outside medical experts said that based on Chavez's account of his condition, he is facing a very difficult fight against cancer.

Romanian govt expected to win bitter elections

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Romania's center-left government is expected to win a comfortable victory in Sunday parliamentary elections, but the result could lead to more of the political instability that has plagued the impoverished Balkan nation this year. President

Traian Basescu must nominate the prime minister, and he has indicated he may not appoint current Premier Victor Ponta even if his coalition wins a majority. The two have been embroiled in a bitter personal feud since Ponta tried and failed to impeach the center-right Basescu in July. If Basescu refuses to appoint Ponta, it would cause a political standoff. Basescu could nominate someone else, but his choice would have to be approved by Parliament. If his candidate fails in two rounds of voting, Parliament could be dissolved.

Focus

BEIJING (AP)—New communist leader Xi Jinping is on a mission to soften the image of Chinese officialdom, winning kudos for his breezy personal style and ordering leaders to take a knife to the pomp, formality and waste that have alienated many among the public.

With his silky baritone, glamorous wife and daughter at Harvard, Xi cuts a very different figure from the staid, hyper-private leaders of the past. Even his posture, more like that of a slouchy college professor than a stiff party cadre, has won him plaudits.

Xi took the new informality a step further at a Tuesday meeting of the 25-member Politburo, ordering that arrangements for leaders' visits and the trappings of power be drastically pared back. Elaborate welcoming ceremonies will be eliminated, traffic disruptions avoided, and staid, often worthless reporting on the doings of the leadership dispensed with. Even red carpets are to go.

And according to Hong Kong media that is what happened on Xi's first trip outside Beijing since he took over as party leader. When Xi arrived in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen on Friday there were no welcome banners, and the red carpet was gone when he laid a wreath to the statue of the former Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping on Saturday, according to footage by Hong Kong-based Phoenix Television.

It's still unclear whether the tonal change will boost transparency and bring meaningful administrative reforms that many say are needed to sustain China's economic and social development. The son of a communist elder, Xi has also gained a reputation as a nationalist hardliner with earlier comments blasting foreigners for criticizing China's human rights record.

Yet his direct approach seems to be winning Xi fans among a public with whom he remains largely unfamiliar, despite his long career in public service and five years serving as the country's vice president.

"Xi has made a positive first impression, which is going to be a big help given the tough job he faces," said Edward Huang, a Beijing financier who recently returned to China after almost a decade in Britain.

As evidence, Huang cites Xi's upbeat, relaxed demeanor in his public appearances and his unwillingness to use communist buzzwords as a crutch. "It inspires confidence," Huang said.

Xi's approach seems to reflect a growing recognition of the need to connect better with a technology-savvy public increasingly willing to register their views about their leaders on the country's Twitter-like micro-blogging services that are closely watched by government monitors.

"China is more open, and its politics are becoming more open and that's putting Chinese leaders under a kind of pressure," said Peking University politics professor Wang Yong. "People want to know more about the life and work of the country's leaders and hope their work style will be more down-to-earth."

As vice president, Xi had been careful to adhere to party protocol that required him to remain low-key and deferential to President Hu Jintao. Now, as party leader and president-in-waiting, he seems eager to seize on the opportunity to establish his personality and bona fides with the Chinese pub-



China's newly appointed leader Xi Jinping gestures as he attends a meeting with foreign experts at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012. AP

China's Xi leads campaign to cut pomp

lic while the focus is still on the new leadership.

Reaching out to the international community, Xi met Wednesday with foreign technical specialists and businesspeople based in China, remarking that amity between nations depends on "whether this deep friendship exists at the people-to-people level."

"In the past we suffered from the bad effects of a rigid and a closed-door policy. We have learned from that and realized that we cannot succeed in our development behind closed doors," Xi said in comments in front of the press.

One participant, Shanghai-based British biologist David Waxman, said Xi appeared comfortable and in control, but also modest, asking about their work, taking notes, and responding to suggestions.

"I have to say, he came across as very confident," Waxman told The Associated Press.

Xi's friendly demeanor could be a plus for China at a time when the outside world is increasingly apprehensive about its rising military, economic, and political might.

"There's a strong desire among Chinese leaders to appear knowledgeable, soothing and willing to listen in front of foreigners," said Joseph Cheng, a Chinese politics expert at Hong Kong's

City University.

Xi, 59, displayed his personal flair last week when talking about the need for struggle and patriotism during a visit to a museum exhibit dedicated to China's fight against foreign domination over the past century and a half.

Dressed in a regulation-issue wind breaker and open-necked shirt, Xi took in the exhibits one by one and listened attentively to the guide's explanations, while the other six members of the all-powerful Politburo standing committee followed dutifully behind.

Xi quoted classical poets as well as communist China's founder, Mao Zedong, in comments carried verbatim and at length on state television—another sign of his new-found seniority. Since Chinese leaders almost never give news conferences, such appearances are about the closest most Chinese will come to seeing Xi speak extemporaneously.

Museum visits are a time-honored ritual for communist leaders, but, coming so soon after his elevation to party secretary, Xi's visit seemed especially primed to show him as a man of the people. It also didn't hurt that Xi spoke standard Mandarin Chinese in a velvety baritone without any discernible regional accent—a break from previous leaders whose provincial twangs sometimes led to mockery or incom-

prehension.

Xi had made graft-busting a signature issue of his vice presidential years, and there are already signs he may be willing to act on those vows. Chinese media reported this week that a deputy party secretary of Sichuan province, Li Chunheng, has been placed under investigation, less than one month after he was named an alternate to the party's Central Committee.

The party's No. 2 official, premier-in-waiting Li Keqiang, has also sought to show a human touch, meeting with social workers and HIV-infected people on World AIDS Day, while the newly named head of the party's disciplinary body, Wang Qishan, upended usual procedure during a weekend meeting with scholars, telling them to dispatch with their presentations and go straight into discussions.

In addition to being a decade or more younger than the outgoing leaders, Xi and Li also reflect a trend toward a background in the more people-centric fields of economics and law rather than the engineering and natural sciences studied by the previous generation.

Xi's family life furthers that contrast. His wife, Peng Liyuan, is an army general better known as a crooner of folk songs who has more recently appeared as a United Nations World Health Or-

ganization goodwill ambassador for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

Yet, despite reaching out to foreigners and peddling a softer tone, Xi has been careful to burnish his nationalist credentials as head of the Central Military Commission overseeing the armed forces, a pose that plays much better at home than abroad. Prior to meeting the foreign experts Wednesday, Xi greeted officers from China's formidable missile corps, praising them as "the pillar of China's great nation status."

Though China's system remains authoritarian, popular support is important because no one is quite clear how to navigate the challenges China is facing, from the rampant corruption that has alienated many Chinese from their leaders to the slowing economy and rising numbers of protests over pollution, graft, and social inequality. Liberal scholars and even many in the government say bold steps are needed to boost transparency and accountability, but there's little willingness to take steps that might weaken the communists' hold on power.

"Chinese leaders might not be elected, but they certainly want to appear close to the people. It's a form of persuasion that better helps sell government policies," said City University's Cheng.

Health & Fitness

Longer use of tamoxifen cuts breast cancer deaths

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

Breast cancer patients taking the drug tamoxifen can cut their chances of having the disease come back or kill them if they stay on the pills for 10 years instead of five years as doctors recommend now, a major study finds.

The results could change treatment, especially for younger women. The findings are a surprise because earlier research suggested that taking the hormone-blocking drug for longer than five years didn't help and might even be harmful.

In the new study, researchers found that women who took tamoxifen for 10

years lowered their risk of a recurrence by 25 percent and of dying of breast cancer by 29 percent compared to those who took the pills for just five years.

In absolute terms, continuing on tamoxifen kept three additional women out of every 100 from dying of breast cancer within five to 14 years from when their disease was diagnosed. When added to the benefit from the first five years of use, a decade of tamoxifen can cut breast cancer mortality in half during the second decade after diagnosis, researchers estimate.

Some women balk at taking a preventive drug for so long, but for those at high risk of a recurrence, "this will be a convincer that they should con-

tinue," said Dr. Peter Ravdin, director of the breast cancer program at the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio.

He reviewed results of the study, which was being presented Wednesday at a breast cancer conference in San Antonio and published by the British medical journal Lancet.

"The result of this trial will have a major, immediate impact on premenopausal women," Ravdin said.

About 50,000 of the roughly 230,000 new cases of breast cancer in the United States each year occur in women before menopause. Most breast cancers are fueled by estrogen, and hormone blockers are known to cut the risk of recurrence in such cases.

Tamoxifen long was the top choice, but newer drugs called aromatase inhibitors—sold as Arimidex, Femara, Aromasin and in generic form—do the job with less risk of causing uterine cancer and other problems.

But the newer drugs don't work well before menopause. Even some women past menopause choose tamoxifen over the newer drugs, which cost more and have different side effects such as joint pain, bone loss and sexual problems.

The new study aimed to see whether over a very long time, longer treatment with tamoxifen could help.

Dr. Christina Davies of the University of Oxford in England and other researchers assigned 6,846 women who already had taken tamoxifen for five years to either stay on it or take dummy pills for another five years.

Researchers saw little difference in the groups five to nine years after diagnosis. But beyond that time, 15 percent of women who had stopped taking tamoxifen after five years had died of breast cancer versus 12 percent of those who took it for 10 years. Cancer had returned in 25 percent of women on the shorter treatment versus 21 percent of those treated longer.

Tamoxifen had some troubling side effects: Longer use nearly doubled the risk of endometrial cancer. But it rarely proved fatal, and there was no increased risk among premenopausal women in the study—the very group tamoxifen helps most.

"Overall the benefits of extended tamoxifen seemed to outweigh the risks substantially," Dr. Trevor Powles of the Cancer Centre London wrote in an editorial published with the study.

The study was sponsored by cancer research organizations in Britain and Europe, the United States Army, and AstraZeneca PLC, which makes Nolvadex, a brand of tamoxifen, which also is sold as a generic for 10 to 50 cents a day. Brand-name versions of the newer hormone blockers, aromatase inhibitors, are \$300 or more per month, but generics are available for much less.

The results pose a quandary for breast cancer patients past menopause and those who become menopausal because of their treatment—the vast majority of cases. Previous studies found that starting on one of the newer hormone blockers led to fewer relapses than initial treatment with tamoxifen did.

Flu season hits US early and hard

By MICHAEL MUSKAL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—The flu season has gotten off to its quickest start in nearly a decade, a sign that it could be a bad year for the illness, officials said on Monday.

Dr. Thomas Frieden, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, urged people to get a flu shot to minimize the impact of the deadly disease's spread. Speaking to publicize National Influenza Vaccination Week, Frieden said a flu shot was the best tool available to stop the spread of the disease, along with covering your mouth when coughing and washing your hands.

"This is the earliest regular flu season we've seen in nearly a decade," Frieden said in a conference call with reporters. "That suggests this could be a bad flu year."

The flu is caused by different strains and part of the test for scientists is trying to mix a vaccine that includes the strains that are most likely to be dominant in any given season. The current vaccine, which has been prepared in advance, seems well-matched for the strains that now are working their way through the population, Frieden said.

Based on early testing, Frieden said



In a Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2012 file photo, Elizabeth Saint Victor winces as she gets a free flu shot from LPN Jean Buck courtesy of Baptist Healthcare in Memphis, Tenn., at the Central Library. Health officials say flu season is off to its earliest start in nearly 10 years—and it could be a bad one.

that the number of suspected flu cases has jumped in five Southern states: Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. The dominant flu type is the same as the one associated with the flu season of 2003-2004, when the outbreak was bad, he said.

The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older. It usually takes about two weeks for the body's immune response

to fully kick in.

Especially at risk are very young children, particularly those younger than 2, and people older than 65. People with chronic conditions such as asthma and heart disease are also at risk.

With the holiday season in mind, Frieden urged people be careful.

"Spread good cheer and give presents," he said. But "don't share infections and spread the flu."

Study could spur wider use of prenatal gene tests

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

A new study sets the stage for wider use of gene testing in early pregnancy. Scanning the genes of a fetus reveals far more about potential health risks than current prenatal testing does, say researchers who compared both methods in thousands of pregnancies nationwide.

A surprisingly high number—6 percent—of certain fetuses declared normal by conventional testing were found to have genetic abnormalities by gene scans, the study found. The gene flaws can cause anything from minor defects such as a club foot to more serious ones such as mental retardation, heart problems and fatal diseases.

"This isn't done just so people can terminate pregnancies," because many choose to continue them even if a problem is found, said Dr. Ronald Wapner, reproductive genetics chief at Columbia University Medical Center in New

York. "We're better able to give lots and lots of women more information about what's causing the problem and what the prognosis is and what special care their child might need."

He led the federally funded study, published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

A second study in the journal found that gene testing could reveal the cause of most stillbirths, many of which remain a mystery now. That gives key information to couples agonizing over whether to try again.

The prenatal study of 4,400 women has long been awaited in the field, and could make gene testing a standard of care in cases where initial screening with an ultrasound exam suggests a structural defect in how the baby is developing, said Dr. Susan Klugman, director of reproductive genetics at New York's Montefiore Medical Center, which enrolled 300 women into the study.

"We can never guarantee the perfect baby but if they want everything done, this is a test that can tell a lot more," she said.

Many pregnant women are offered screening with an ultrasound exam or a blood test that can flag some common abnormalities such as Down syndrome, but these are not conclusive.

The next step is diagnostic testing on cells from the fetus obtained through amniocentesis, which is like a needle biopsy through the belly, or chorionic villus sampling, which snips a bit of the placenta. Doctors look at the sample under a microscope for breaks or extra copies of chromosomes that cause a dozen or so abnormalities.

The new study compared this eyeball method to scanning with gene chips that can spot hundreds of abnormalities and far smaller defects than what can be seen with a microscope. This costs \$1,200 to \$1,800 versus \$600 to \$1,000 for the visual exam.

Personal Trainer

Salvaging a bad day on the court

When a round of tennis turns into a nonstop disaster, experienced players use tricks like these to recover and get back in the groove.

Work the serve

When your serve keeps going out, keep your head up and back toe on the ground

Eye the ball

Watch the ball more intently on the stroke you are playing worst

Fix your volley

At the net, volley in front of your body, lower your wrists, follow the ball and punch through it

Hit short balls long

If your ground strokes are hitting the net ...

... aim past the baseline, then pull back your aim a little from that point

Ground stroke blues

Fixes for your forehand

- Lean forward
- Shorten your backswing

Fixes for your backhand

- Plant your front foot firmly
- Turn across your body more

Source: "Fine Points of Tennis" by Sterling Publishing

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

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Life & Style

Stephen King offers writing tips to US students

By **BRIDGET MURPHY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOWELL, Massachusetts (AP)—Stephen King loves scaring people, but one student at University of Massachusetts Lowell tried to find out Friday what scares him.

"Spiders, snakes ... my mother-in-law," the writer said with a grin.

The author of international bestselling books including "Carrie" and "The Shining" came to the college to talk with writing students.

English Department professor Andre Dubus III, another bestselling author and an old friend of King's, shared the stage for about an hour as students asked questions about their craft.

King told the crowd of about 125 students that his goal is to write stories that sizzle with emotion.

"I'm a confrontational writer. I want to be in your face. I want to get into your space. I want to get within kissing distance, hugging distance, choking distance, punching distance. Call it whatever you want. But I want your attention."

He got that Friday, plus some laughs.

Wearing jeans and a black T-shirt, the 65-year-old writer from Maine peppered his talk with profanity and promised students he was just a regular guy.

He said they shouldn't be in awe like he was when he was a University of Maine freshman and heard a talk from "Catch-22" author Joseph Heller.

"It's not like being U2, you know what I'm saying?" King said.

The author told students he knows where he gets his writing ideas about half the time, and his fascination for horror stories didn't come from childhood trauma.

During his lecture and in an interview later, King also talked about two books he's finished that will be published in 2013.

The author's crime novel "Joyland" will be out in paperback in July, followed in September by the book "Doctor Sleep," a sequel to his thriller "The Shining."

The story is set in a New Hampshire hospice, where now all-grown-up character Danny Torrance works.

King said he had reservations about writing a sequel, but people always wanted to know more about the little boy from "The Shining."

"People used to ask me, years later after 'The Shining,' what ever happened to that kid? ... I'd say 'I don't know.' But it started to kind of kick around in my brain, you know?"

Because Torrance can read minds, King said he was in-



Novelist Stephen King gestures as he speaks to creative writing students at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell in Lowell, Mass., Friday, Dec. 7, 2012.

trigued by the idea of having the character work in a hospice

as someone who helps people cross over from life to death.

The author encouraged students to be people-watchers

and pick up on traits that would let them create their own characters.

King also warned them against becoming discouraged about publishers' rejection slips and said not to use notebooks for story ideas. He said the stuff that's worth writing stays in your head.

"My method for starting anything is I tell myself the story when I'm laying in bed at night, waiting to go to sleep," King said.

The no-notebook idea made an impression on sophomore Joshua Beverage, who said later he'd give the method a try. The 19-year-old creative writing major said he's been reading King's stories and seeing movies based on them since he was 8.

"I never thought I'd actually be in his presence. That was really big for me," he said.

Sophomore literature major

Chelsea Graham said she was impressed King said it should be up to readers to decide what books are important to them.

"I liked how he said it's a good book when it sort of takes over your life," the 19-year-old said.

Dubus, who joined King on another UMass Lowell stage later Friday for a talk before an audience of 3,000, said the earlier lecture meant a lot.

"He gives these students the sense that the university is important, where they are important, what they're doing is significant, and that they count," he said.

But for as much writing advice as King shared with students, the horror master also left them with some mystery.

"I've always wondered who I am when I write," King said, "because once I'm doing it, I'm not in the room with myself."

UK hospital: Nurse involved in Kate hoax call dies

LONDON (AP)—The news that Prince William and the former Kate Middleton were expecting their first child—joyous news for a couple looking forward to starting a family—immediately turned bittersweet with the simultaneous announcement that the duchess was being hospitalized for acute morning sickness. Then there was an invasion of her privacy by two disc jockeys who impersonated Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles to gain information on her condition.

By Friday, the sadness merely deepened, with the news that the nurse who unwittingly took the hoax call had died.

The royal couple quickly issued a statement expressing their condolences over the death of Jacintha Saldanha, the 46-year-old mother of two duped by the Australian DJs, who had suddenly found herself at the vortex of a global incident.

They stressed they had not complained about the hoax call, and indeed offered praise for the staff. The hospital, too, stressed that Saldanha had not been reprimanded.

And yet the week can only be described as tragic, with the happiness so tarnished by the latest developments.

Saldanha was found dead early Friday at apartments affiliated with King Edward VII hospital in central London, where she worked for four years.

Police didn't release a cause of death, but said they didn't find anything suspicious. A coroner will make a determination on the cause.

2DayFM, the Australian station that performed the prank early Tuesday, said in a state-



In this Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012 file photo, Britain's Prince William stand next to his wife Kate, Duchess of Cambridge as she leaves the King Edward VII hospital in central London.

ment that the two disc jockeys, Mel Greig and Michael Christian, would not return to the station until further notice. They had apologized for the hoax Wednesday.

Rhys Holleran, CEO of 2DayFM's parent company Southern Cross Austereo, said the hosts were shocked and devastated by news of Saldanha's death.

"This is a tragic event that could not have been reasonably foreseen and we're deeply saddened by it," Holleran said during a news conference in Melbourne on Saturday. "I spoke to both presenters early this morning and it's fair to say they're completely shattered."

Greig and Christian have been offered counseling, Hol-

leran said.

"These people aren't machines, they're human beings," he said. "We're all affected by this."

Holleran would not say who came up with the idea for the call, only that "these things are often done collaboratively." He said 2DayFM would work with authorities, but was confident the station hadn't broken any laws, noting that prank calls in radio have been happening "for decades."

"They're not just part of one radio station or one network or one country—they're done worldwide," he said.

Saldanha took the hoax call by the pair, who impersonated Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles to elicit information

on the duchess, the hospital said. She later transferred the call to the nurse caring for the duchess, who was admitted to the hospital Monday with acute morning sickness.

"Our thoughts and deepest sympathies at this time are with her family and friends," hospital chief executive John Lofthouse said in a statement. "Everyone is shocked by the loss of a much loved and valued colleague."

St. James's Palace, the office of the duchess and her husband Prince William, also expressed sadness at the death, but insisted that it had not complained about the hoax.

"On the contrary, we offered our full and heartfelt support to the nurses involved and hospital staff at all times," the palace

said in a statement.

Saldanha's family asked for privacy in a statement issued through London police.

"We as a family are deeply saddened by the loss of our beloved Jacintha," the statement said.

Australia's media watchdog, the Australian Communications and Media Authority, said it was looking into the hoax.

"These events are a tragedy for all involved, and I pass on my heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased nurse in London," the authority's chairman, Chris Chapman, said in a statement. "The ACMA does not propose to make any comments at this stage but will be engaging with the licensee, 2DayFM Sydney, around the facts and issues surrounding the prank call."

During the hoax call, a woman using the often-mimicked voice of Britain's monarch asked about the duchess' health. She was told by the second nurse who took the call from Saldanha that the duchess, the former Kate Middleton, "hasn't had any retching with me and she's been sleeping on and off."

The nurse went on to tell the radio personalities that the duchess had had an uneventful night, as a dog barking sound was heard in the background. The alleged queen and prince talk about traveling to the hospital to check in on the patient.

The hospital said it supported Saldanha in the aftermath of the call and that its phone protocols were under review.

The Australian station placed the recording of the conversation on its website, but later said it was sorry.

Chinese Nobel winner: Politics a great challenge

By LOUISE NORDSTROM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

STOCKHOLM (AP)—This year's Nobel Literature Prize winner says his greatest challenge as a writer has been to reflect the social realities of his native China without allowing personal political opinions suppress his work.

In his much-awaited Nobel lecture in Stockholm on Friday, Guan Moye who uses the pen name Mo Yan, mostly steered clear of politics but described the constraints he has experienced when he has allowed politics to suppress literature and transform a novel into reportage of a social event.

The 57-year-old novelist, the first Chinese national to win the literature award, said "heated emotions and anger allow politics to suppress literature and transform a novel into reportage of a social event."

He gave his work "The Garlic Ballads" as an example. The novel, which depicts a peasant uprising and corruption, was banned in China after the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown.

Mo, whose popular, sprawling, bawdy tales bring to life rural China, is the first Chinese winner of the literature prize who is not a critic of the authoritarian government and has been criticized for being a member of the Communist Party and vice president of the party-backed writers' association.

Mo Yan, which means "don't speak"—something he describes as "an ironic expression of self-mockery"—said that even though novelists are entitled to their opinions, they "must take a humanistic stance, and write accordingly. Only then can literature not just originate in events but transcend them, not just show concern for politics but be greater than politics."

He chose the pen name while writing his first novel to remind himself to hold his tongue and stay out of trouble.

Mo has also been accused of not defending free speech enough and refusing to appear with dissident writers at overseas literary seminars.

And he isn't the only Chinese writer to have won a No-



Winner of the Nobel Prize 2012 for literature, Mo Yan demonstrates Chinese calligraphy for students during a visit to Hersby Gymnasium high school in Lidingo, outside Stockholm, Sweden, Friday, Dec. 7, 2012.

bel prize.

Democracy campaigner Liu Xiaobo won the peace prize in 2010 for his human rights efforts but was sentenced to 11 years in prison in 2009 for co-authoring a bold call to end China's single-party rule and enact democratic reforms.

Although Mo in October said he hoped his compatriot would be freed soon, he dodged questions on the issue at a news conference in the Swedish capital on Thursday, and indicated he had no plans to join a petition

signed by 134 Nobel laureates calling for Liu's release.

In the traditional Nobel lecture, he said he was upset by the controversy following the announcement that he had won this year's literature prize.

"But over time I've come to realize that the real target was a person who had nothing to do with me. Like someone watching a play in a theater," he said, noting that "for a writer, the best way to speak is by writing. You will find everything I need to say in my works. Speech is car-

ried off by the wind; the written word can never be obliterated."

Dedicating the speech to his late mother, the literature laureate focused on describing his poor upbringing in the rural eastern Chinese village of Gaomi. He said it was the place where he learned "what real courage is," and that it taught him to understand true compassion.

Most of his works are set in this rural environment, including probably his best known novel to English-language readers, "Red Sorghum" (1987),

thanks in part to Zhang Yimou's acclaimed film adaptation. The novel has sold nearly 50,000 copies in the U.S., according to the publisher Penguin Group (USA), a strong number for a translated work.

His output has been prolific, which has contributed to his popularity and his impact, with books translated into English, Russian, French, German and many other languages, giving him an audience well beyond the Chinese-speaking world.

A popular writer in his homeland, the Nobel jury in Stockholm awarded him the 2012 prize for his ability to use the written word in a way that "with hallucinatory realism merges folk tales, history and the con-

temporary."

Among other highlighted works by the Nobel judges also were "Big Breasts & Wide Hips" (2004), "The Garlic Ballads," and "Frogs" (2009) that centers on forced abortions and other coercive aspects of the Chinese government's policies restricting most families to one child.

His fascination for words came at an early age when he was enthralled by the tales of wondering storytellers on market day. He began to embellish their narratives when repeating their stories at home and soon was making up his own fables.

His mother was fascinated by his stories, but wondered if he might one day "wind up prattling for a living."

'Walking Dead' wins game of the year at Spike VGAs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Walking Dead: The Game" took a bite out of the Spike Video Game Awards.

Telltale Games' interactive episodic series based on the zombie comic book franchise was selected as game of the year at Friday's extravaganza, which honors outstanding achievements in the video game industry over the past year.

"Look, 'Walking Dead' fans, this is obviously for you," beamed "Walking Dead" creator Robert Kirkman. "Thank you so much. You guys watch the TV show. You read the comics. You play the video games. You make all this possible."

"The Walking Dead" also won the best downloadable and adapted game prizes, as well as best performance by a human female for Melissa Hutchison as young survivor Clementine and studio of the year for Telltale Games.

"The Avengers" star and shooter fan Samuel L. Jackson served as host of the much-censored 10th annual ceremony at Sony Pictures Studios, marking his fourth time hosting the show.

"You know me," warned Jackson at the start of the ceremony. "Whoever's in charge of the bleep button, keep your finger ready 'cause this is gonna be one heck of a show, (expletive)."

Gearbox Software's cartoony shoot-'em-up sequel "Borderlands 2" swept the VGAs with the most awards, picking up trophies for best shooter, multiplayer, performance by a human male for Dameon Clarke as villain Handsome Jack and character of the year for chatty robot Claptrap.

Other titles winning multiple trophies included 343 Industries' sci-fi shooter "Halo 4" as best Xbox 360 game and graphics; Queasy Games'

musical platformer "Sound Shapes" as best handheld game and song for "Cities" by Beck; and thatgamecompany's artsy downloadable adventure "Journey" as best independent, PlayStation 3 game and original score.

"We made 'Journey' for you, to show that games can be something different—independent, experimental, moving, emotional, modern, inclusive, different," said "Journey" executive producer Robin Hunicke. "That's why we made it."

Arkane Studios' stealthy first-person game "Dishonored" was picked as best action-adventure game. BioWare's sci-fi saga "Mass Effect 3" won as best role-playing game. Valve Software's "Half-Life 2" was chosen as the best game of the decade.

The two-hour ceremony, which featured performances from Linkin Park and Tena-cious D, put more emphasis on hyping upcoming games than handing out trophies though.

The show featured new footage from such upcoming titles as "The Last Us," "South Park: The Stick of Truth," "Castlevania: Lords of Shadow 2" and "BioShock Infinite." It also served to unveil never-before-seen games like "Dark Souls II" and "The Phantom Pain," which is apparently connected to the "Metal Gear Solid" franchise.

For the first time, the VGAs were streamed on Xbox Live, the online service for Microsoft's Xbox 360 console. During the ceremony, online viewers could vote on show components like what songs and clips would be played during the VGAs.

The winners of most of the show's categories were chosen by an advisory council, while viewer votes selected character of the year and most anticipated game, which went to "Grand Theft Auto V."

Gov. Haley shuts door on Colbert for US Senate

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP)—South Carolina's governor appears to have closed the door on appointing Stephen Colbert to the U.S. Senate, all because the comedian didn't know the state drink was milk.

During "The Colbert Report" on Thursday, Colbert urged his fans to send Gov. Nikki Haley messages on Twitter with the hashtag "SenatorColbert" telling her why he would make a great senator from his home state. Haley is appointing a senator after Jim DeMint announced he is resigning at the end of the year.

Colbert, who plays a mock conservative pundit on his

show, also gave Haley four reasons he was the perfect choice.

"You want somebody young, somebody conservative, somebody from South Carolina, maybe somebody who had a super PAC," Colbert said, ticking off the choices by putting down a finger until the final one was left pointing at himself.

"Wait a second," Colbert said, as his crowd cheered.

Thousands of messages poured into the governor's official Twitter account. She responded on her favorite social

media site, Facebook, writing on her page that she appreciated Colbert's interest and all the tweets.

"But you forget one thing, my friend. You didn't know our state drink. Big, big mistake," Haley wrote, adding a link to a video of her April appearance on Colbert's show where the host did not know milk was the official state beverage.

On that same show, however, Colbert stumped Haley with the state amphibian—the spotted salamander.

Colbert was born and raised

in Charleston, and he still has family in the state. He gently mocks his home, and has made a couple of faux runs for president during the state's early primaries. He also put on a crown and declared himself governor of South Carolina in 2009 when then-Gov. Mark Sanford disappeared for several days while visiting his mistress in Argentina.

On his show Thursday, Colbert also gave one other qualification he had to be a U.S. Senator.

"When I look at the U.S. Senate, I say to myself, you know what they could use?" Colbert said. "Another white guy."



Colbert

Obama to attend PSY performance despite protests

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama will attend a charity concert where PSY is scheduled to perform after reports that the South Korean rapper participated in anti-American protests several years ago.

A spokesman says Friday that the Obama family will

attend the Dec. 21 Christmas in Washington concert, as is custom.

News reports cite two instances of the 34-year-old “Gangnam Style” rapper participating in concerts protesting the U.S. military presence in South Korea during the early stages

of the war in Iraq. In a 2004 concert, PSY performs another act’s song about killing “Yankees” who have been torturing Iraqi captives and their families “slowly and painfully.”



Psy

PSY’s inescapable hit went viral in the U.S. and holds the YouTube record for most watched video. A message left with his spokeswoman was not immediately returned.

Bieber, Swift, One Direction at Jingle Ball



One Direction perform at Z100's Jingle Ball 2012 presented by Aeropostale at Madison Square Garden on Friday Dec. 7, 2012 in New York. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Bieber is smooth with the dance moves—but is he just as good

with a pair of clippers?

The teen sensation jokingly threatened to cut the long locks

of his guitar player during his performance at Z100’s annual Jingle Ball on Friday night at

Rituals, dances and carnivals win UN protection

PARIS (AP)—The frenetic music and vibrant colors of the Frevo, a Brazilian carnival dance, have been immortalized by UNESCO as a world heritage treasure.

The electrifying tradition from the city of Recife will now stand alongside the likes of the Argentine tango, the Spanish flamenco and the French gastronomic meal, all protected by the U.N. as pieces of the world’s “intangible heritage.”

The one-week annual UNESCO committee meeting, which ended Friday, aims to raise the profile and give financial support to endangered elements of global culture.

UNESCO describes “intan-

gible heritage” as practices and living expressions handed down from one generation to the next, including rituals, traditions and know-how.

Naize Abreu was one of the Frevo performers who flew in to UNESCO headquarters in Paris from Recife to support the nomination and dance in front of the delegates.

“The joy I have is indescribable,” said Abreu, standing in a bright costume with a traditional multicolored umbrella, upon hearing the news. “I am proud that our unique local culture will now be known throughout the world.”

The “Fest-Noz,” a traditional French dance from Brit-

tany, was also given heritage status, to safeguard a tradition that dates from the 1950s. Further afield, the Korean national folk song the “Arirang,” which is known universally throughout the divided North and South was also inscribed in the list, which now numbers 257 elements.

“The concept ... poorly understood just a few years ago, has gained ground everywhere,” said Irina Bokova, director-general of UNESCO.

The Intangible Heritage Convention started compiling its list of protected elements in 2008. UNESCO world heritage sites, which are actual places, were designated in June.

Lady Gaga thanks Russian PM Medvedev

MOSCOW (AP)—Lady Gaga has expressed “her gratitude” to Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev for opposing regional laws that make it a crime to provide minors with information about homosexuality.

The pop star tweeted Saturday that she thanks the former president for “not standing by your party’s anti-gay propaganda law.”

Gaga’s tweet followed her arrival in St. Petersburg, one of the three Russian cities that have recently passed bills imposing fines of up to \$150,000 for providing minors with information on homosexuality, which the laws term “homosexual propaganda.”

Asked about the laws, Medvedev said in a televised interview Friday that “not all relations between people can be regulated by law.”

Homosexuality was decriminalized in Russia in 1993, but homophobia remains strong, and gay rallies been dispersed by police and militant Orthodox activists.

Girl knows truth about Santa, but mom refuses to fess up

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I have a 12-year-old daughter who keeps telling me she knows Santa isn’t real. “Angela” is an only child, so we don’t have a younger child to worry about carrying on the tradition.

I keep telling her that I believe, and as long as she believes, Santa will come. Angela went so far this year to tell me that she won’t write a letter to Santa to prove her point.

I guess I have a problem admitting to my daughter that her father and I haven’t been truthful all these years. I would love some advice on how to handle this.

I BELIEVE, IN NAVARRE, FLA.

DEAR I BELIEVE: The jig is up. You’re no longer fooling your daughter. By not leveling with her, the message you have been sending is that if she wants straight answers, she will have to go elsewhere to find them. Sit Angela down and explain that the spirit of Santa is embodied by loving parents who want their children to experience the wonder of the holiday as well as the pleasures it brings.

P.S. And if you haven’t done so already, recant the story you probably told her about the stork.

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for three years. I have started seeing a truck driver I’ll call Ted. His job keeps him away from me a lot of the time. I’m used to being by myself, so it doesn’t bother me that much. Ted calls and texts me all day, so the communication is there.

My family is telling me it will never work because I need someone with me in the evenings—like my ex was. I say it WILL work because I’m used to being by myself now. Ted and I have a lot in common.

I guess what I’m asking is, should I pay attention to what my family is saying or tell them to mind their own business?

OK BY MYSELF IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR OK: Constant togetherness is no guarantee that a marriage will be successful. If it was, you wouldn’t be divorced from your “ever-present” ex. When choosing a partner it is important to listen to both your heart and your head.

Continue the relationship and see how it plays out. Tell your family you appreciate their concern, but this is something you must decide for yourself. “Mind your own business” seems a bit harsh.

DEAR ABBY: I see a very skeletal woman every day at my gym. She does an hour on the sit-up machine. Her stomach sticks out like a person suffering from starvation. It hurts to look at her.

I feel I have a moral obligation to do or say something in case she is suffering from anorexia. However, I would not feel obligated to say anything to an obese woman at the gym. I am also afraid this person may have another condition that is causing her to waste away.

How should I offer support to her? Or should I just ignore her like the other people at the gym do?

WORKING OUT WITH MY EYES OPEN

DEAR WORKING OUT: If you would like to reach out to her, be friendly, but do not comment on her appearance. As you get to know each other you will learn more about her condition—if she has one. If you say anything right off the bat, it could be considered rude, nosy or insensitive, so I don’t recommend it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Lady Antebellum’s Hillary Scott expecting 1st baby

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Lady Antebellum’s Hillary Scott is expecting. Scott announced her pregnancy Friday on Twitter, calling the baby “our Christmas gift.” A spokeswoman confirmed the news and said no other details were available. It’s the first child for the 26-year-old “Need You Now” singer and her husband, Chris Tyrrell. It’s also the first child for the trio, which includes Charles Kelley and Dave Haywood. Later in the day Scott traveled to Las Vegas, where the Lady A will attend Monday’s American Country Awards. Scott

tweeted that she was headed to bed: “... this growing a baby thing makes ya sleepy!”

Lupus forces singer Toni Braxton into LA hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Singer Toni Braxton has been hospitalized in Los Angeles. The R&B performer says in a Tweet on Friday that she’s been hospitalized because of “minor health issues” related to Lupus. A spokeswoman confirmed the hospitalization but had no other details. “But no worries!” Braxton wrote to fans. “I will be out any day now.” The 45-year-old singer of “Un-break My Heart” revealed two years ago she has Lupus, a potentially

deadly autoimmune disease that killed Braxton’s uncle. She also suffers from a narrowing of the blood vessels in her heart. Braxton said in a recent “20/20” interview that doctors told her the Lupus diagnosis meant her performing career would likely be diminished and the disease helped push her into a recent bankruptcy.

Sugarland’s Jennifer Nettles welcomes son

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Sugarland singer Jennifer Nettles has a new member of the family. A statement issued Friday says Nettles gave birth to son Magnus Hamilton Miller on

Thursday. It’s the first child for the 38-year-old singer and husband Justin Miller. Nettles says in the statement the couple is thankful for all the prayers and support they’ve received “and are excited to take some time together as a new family.” Nettles and Miller celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary last month. No other details were immediately available. Multiplatinum-selling Sugarland, comprised of Nettles and duo partner Kristian Bush, is one of country music’s most popular acts. The duo is off the road for the time being, but fans can catch Nettles hosting ABC’s pre-recorded CMA Country Christmas on Dec. 20.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

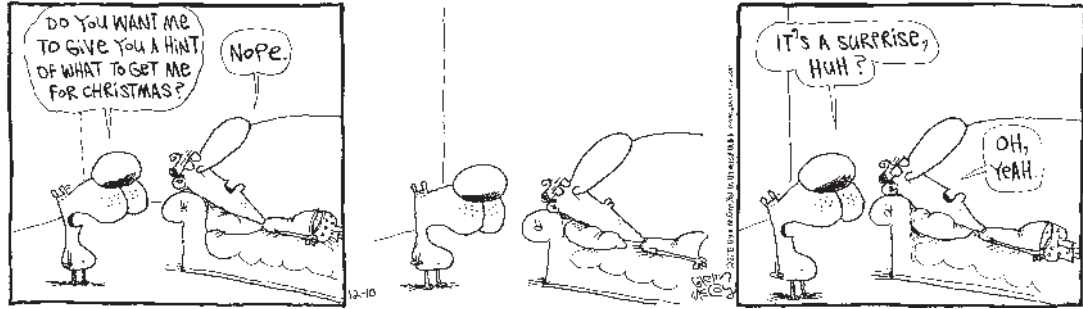
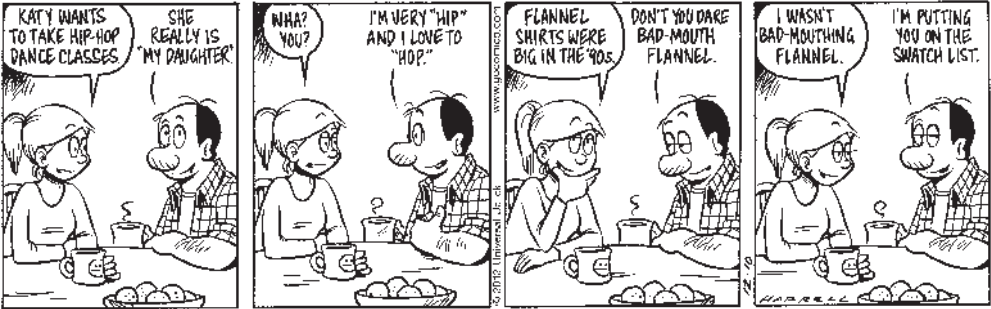
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Adam@home

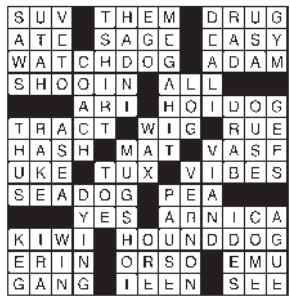
By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

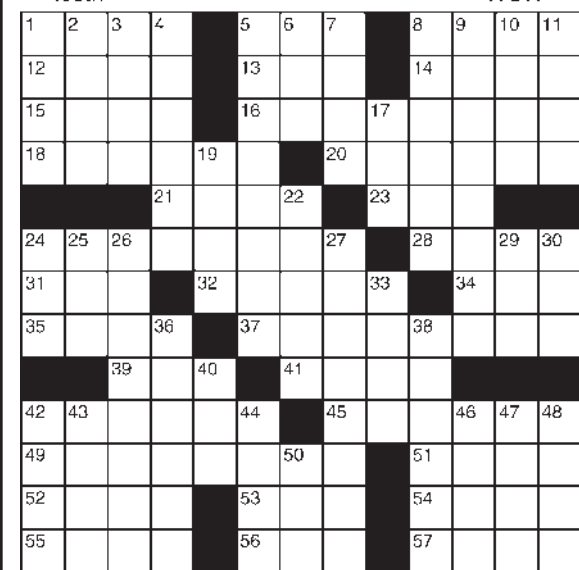


CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Eye layer
 - 5 Poorly illuminated
 - 8 Answer an invite
 - 12 Send a naughty photo
 - 13 Environmental prefix
 - 14 Elevator name
 - 15 Goblet part
 - 16 Carrion-eating birds
 - 18 Highly ornate
 - 20 Most up-to-date
 - 21 Satan's purchase
 - 23 Pod occupant
 - 24 Snapshots
 - 28 Omit
 - 31 Web address
 - 32 Diarist
 - 34 A Gabor sister
 - 35 Settled a debt
 - 37 False teeth
- DOWN**
- 1 Letters on old Asian maps
 - 2 Kill a bill
 - 3 One of the brass, for short
 - 4 Maximally
 - 5 Ate greedily
 - 6 Hosp. area
 - 7 Gangster's girlfriend
 - 8 GPS findings
 - 9 One who jogs sans togs
 - 10 Competes
 - 11 "Hey, you!"
 - 17 Spigot
 - 19 Master-stroke
 - 22 Shunned person
 - 24 Young dog
 - 25 Playwright
 - 26 Reached a peak
 - 27 Short story?
 - 29 "Got a Secret"
 - 30 — de deux
 - 33 Old portico
 - 36 Marks meaning "same as above"
 - 38 Baseball arbiter
 - 40 Roman money
 - 42 Urban blight
 - 43 Old Italian coin
 - 44 Sketch
 - 46 Hebrew month
 - 47 Relaxing discipline
 - 48 Brewery products
 - 50 Away from WSW
- Solution time: 27 mins.**



Friday's answer 12-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Raven-Symone, 27; Emmanuelle Chriqui, 35; Nia Peeples, 51; Kenneth Branagh, 52.

Happy Birthday: Pick your friends and associates wisely. Precision and detail will make the difference between getting a little or a lot done. A creative project should be resurrected and finished. The changes you make should deal with your location and intellectual needs. Your numbers are 7, 18, 22, 25, 34, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Reassess your budget and put changes into motion quickly. A creative idea will help you save money between now and the end of the year. Reopen conversations with people you haven't seen for a long time and find out where your relationship stands. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your observation will pay off when dealing with partnerships. The little extras you do now will help divulge what others truly think and plan to do in the future. Read between the lines and you will discover the best move you can make. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Avoid confrontation. Your tendency to overreact will get you into trouble with someone who can influence your future. Stay calm and focus on adding a unique spin to the way you handle a job you've been given. A personal change will do you good. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Turn on the charm and present your thoughts. You will drum up support and attract someone interested in doing more with you. Love is on the rise and greater interaction with

people sharing your concerns will lead to good times ahead. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Problems, delays and interference will set your plans back. Be prepared to make last-minute changes. Don't get frazzled by what others do or say. Taking the high road and doing your best will speak volumes about you as a person. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Give-and-take will be the name of the game. Stop trying to do everything and admit you need help. Your ability to work alongside others will open up new friendships and future proposals. Less said and more done will pay off. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Remembering the past can help you move forward. Think about your accomplishments, setbacks, hurts and loves this past year and decide how you can put them behind you and prepare to do better next year. Back away from anyone who has meddled. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Say what's on your mind and you will inspire others to pitch in and help. Your relentless courage, dedication and endless determination will impress and position you for a brighter future. Put your prime relationship at the top of your list. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Brighten up your surroundings, spice up your life and make changes that will help you move into next year feeling confident and ready to take on the world. Do your best not to divulge a secret, or you may damage your reputation. ***

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Say what you think, finish what you start and you will gain respect. Promises made will be honored. Good things will develop through the interaction you have with friends, colleagues and your lover. Participate in social networking events. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll face problems when dealing with authority figures or those trying to enforce rules or regulations you don't agree with. You may have to reinvent the way you do things or the lifestyle you choose in order to avoid opposition. **

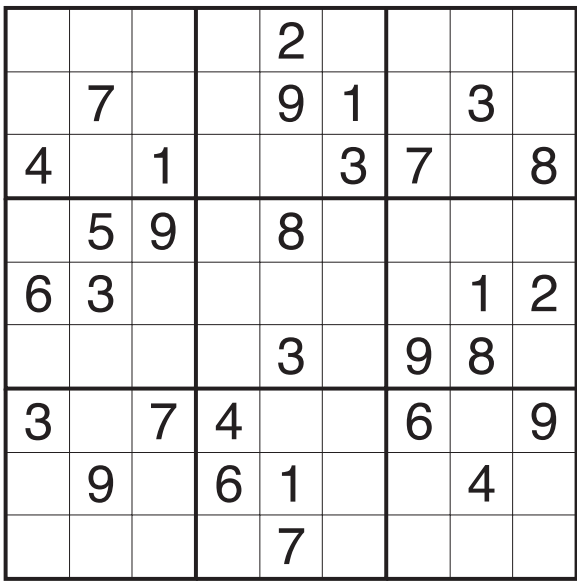
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will attract attention. Before you decide to take over, you may want to consider what's entailed. Too much of anything is the enemy. Bide your time and use it wisely to encourage profit as well as personal acceptance. *****

Birthday Baby: You follow your own path. You are loyal, relentless and focused.

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SUDOKU

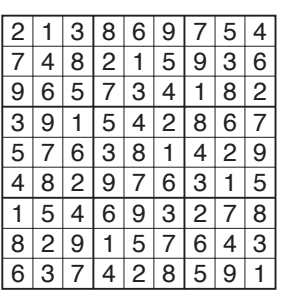
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★ 12/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★ 12/07

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'DIS' IS THE WORD ... Solution: 12 letters



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Last Saturday's Answer: Songbird

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Attorney for Petitioner Jacqueline T. Chong
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In the Matter of the Estate of
ANA TENORIO CHONG, Deceased.
Civil Action No. 12-0279
NOTICE OF HEARING/ NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Date: January 8, 2013
Time: 1:30 pm
Judge: Hon. David A. Wiseman
TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HIS ESTATE
Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Jacqueline T. Chong, has filed a Petition For Letters of Administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule 15, Com. R. Prob.
A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on January 8, 2013 at 1:30pm in Courtroom 223, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.
Pursuant to Rule 21, Com. R. Prob., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or her Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to F. Matthew Smith at the above indicated address.
Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.
SO NOTICED this 19th day of November, 2012.
/s/ F. MATTHEW SMITH (F0264)
Attorney for Petitioner

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Manziel is first freshman to win Heisman Trophy



NEW YORK
(AP)—He's Johnny Best in Football now—and a freshman, at that.

Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel became the first newcomer to win the Heisman Trophy, taking college football's top individual prize Saturday night after a record-breaking debut.

Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te'o finished a distant second in the voting and Kansas State quarterback Collin Klein was third. In a Heisman race with two nontraditional candidates, Manziel broke through the class ceiling and kept Te'o from becoming the first purely defensive player to win the award.

"That barrier's broken now," Manziel said. "It's starting to become more of a trend that freshmen are coming in early and that they are ready to play. And they are really just taking the world by storm."

None more than the guy they call Johnny Football.

Manziel drew 474 first-place votes and 2,029 points from the panel of media members and former winners. Te'o had 321 first-place votes and 1,706 points and Klein received 60 firsts and 894 points.

"I have been dreaming about this since I was a kid, running around the backyard pretending I was Doug Flutie, throwing Hail Marys to my dad," he said after hugging his parents and kid sister.

Flutie was one of many Heisman winners standing behind Manziel as he gave his speech on stage at the Best Buy Theater in Times Square.

"I always wanted to be in a fraternity," Manziel said later. "Now I get to be in the most prestigious one in the entire world."

Manziel was so nervous waiting for the winner to be announced, he wondered if the television cameras could see his heart pounding beneath his navy blue pinstripe suit. But he seemed incredibly calm after, hardly resembling the guy who dashes around the football field on Saturday. He simply bowed his head, and later gave the trophy a quick kiss.

"It's such an honor to represent Texas A&M, and my teammates here tonight. I wish they could be on the stage with me," he said with a wide smile, concluding his speech like any good Aggie: "Gig'em."

Just a few days after turning 20, Manziel proved times have truly changed in college football, and that experience can be really overrated.

For years, seniors dominated the award named after John Heisman, the pioneering Georgia Tech coach from the early 1900s. In the 1980s, juniors started becoming common winners. Tim Tebow became the first sophomore to win it in 2007, and two more won it in the next two seasons.

Adrian Peterson had come closest as a freshman, finishing second to Southern California quarterback Matt Leinart in



Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel poses with the Heisman Trophy after becoming the first freshman to win the college football award, Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, in New York.

2004. But it took 78 years for a newbie to take home the big bronze statue.

"It doesn't matter anymore," he said.

Peterson was a true freshman for Oklahoma. As a redshirt freshman, Manziel attended

school and practiced with the team last year, but did not play in any games.

He's the second player from Texas A&M to win the Heisman, joining John David Crow from 1957, and did so without the slightest hint of preseason

hype. Manziel didn't even win the starting job until two weeks before the season.

Who needs hype when you can fill-up a highlight reel the way Manziel can?

With daring runs and elusive improvisation, Manziel broke

2010 Heisman winner Cam Newton's Southeastern Conference record with 4,600 total yards, led the Aggies to a 10-2 in their first season in the SEC and orchestrated an upset at then-No. 1 Alabama in November that stamped him as legit.

He has thrown for 3,419 yards and 24 touchdowns and run for 1,181 yards and 19 more scores to become the first freshman, first SEC player and fifth player overall to throw for 3,000 yards and run for 1,000 in a season.

"You can put his numbers up against anybody who has ever played the game," Texas A&M coach Kevin Sumlin said.

Manziel has one more game this season, when the No. 10 Aggies play Oklahoma in the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 4.

As for the Heisman, Manziel said he'd like to keep it right next to his bed.

"But I'm in college. A lot of people come through the house. We live in a college neighborhood. It might not be a good idea. If I can get a case that's indestructible, locked and looks pretty good, we'll see where I keep it," he said.

The resume alone fails to capture the Johnny Football phenomenon. At 6-foot-1 and 200 pounds, Manziel is master of the unexpected, darting here and there, turning plays seemingly doomed to failure into touchdowns.

Take, for example, what he did in the first quarter against the Crimson Tide. Manziel took a shotgun snap, stepped up in the pocket as if he was about to take off on another made scramble and ran into the back a lineman. On impact, Manziel bobbled the ball, caught it with his back to the line of scrimmage, turned, rolled the opposite direction and

fired a touchdown pass—throwing across his body—to a wide-open receiver.

He might as well have been back in Kerrville, Texas, where he became a hill country star in high school.

His road to college stardom was anything but a clear path.

Manziel competed with two other quarterbacks to replace Ryan Tannehill as the starter this season, the Aggies' first in the SEC and first under Sumlin.

Manziel came out of spring practice as the backup, but became the starter in August.

Still, nobody was hailing him is the next big thing. Did Sumlin think he had a Heisman winner on his hands?

"No," he said emphatically, adding, "Not this year."

Then Manziel started playing and the numbers started piling up.

He also had some struggles against Florida in the season opener and in a home loss to LSU. The question was: Could he do his thing against a top-notch opponent?

The answer came in Tuscaloosa, Ala., on Nov. 10. Going into the matchup against the Crimson Tide, Manziel said he and his teammates heard a lot of doubters.

"You can't do this and you can't do that," he recalled Saturday at the podium.

Manziel passed for 253 yards, ran for 92 and the Aggies beat the Tide 29-24. Klein had been the front-runner for most of the season, but Manziel surged after beating 'Bama.

Still, Manziel was still something of a mystery man. Sumlin's rules prohibit freshmen from being available to the media. Manziel was off-limits, but not exactly silent.

Cowboy charged after player dies in auto accident



IRVING, Texas
(AP)—Police charged Dallas Cowboys defensive lineman Josh Brent with intoxication manslaughter Saturday after he flipped his car in a pre-dawn accident that killed teammate Jerry Brown.

Irving police spokesman John Argumaniz said the accident happened about 2:20 a.m. Saturday in the Dallas suburb, hours before Brent was to be on a team flight to Cincinnati for the Cowboys' game Sunday against the Bengals.

Argumaniz said the 25-year-old Brown—a practice-squad linebacker who also was Brent's teammate for three seasons at the University of Illinois—was found unresponsive at the scene and pronounced dead at a hospital.

"I am devastated and filled with grief," Brent said in a statement released to multiple media outlets by agent Peter Schaffer. "Filled with grief for the loss of my close friend and teammate, Jerry Brown. I am also grief-stricken for his family, friends and all who were blessed enough

to have known him.

"I will live with this horrific and tragic loss every day for the rest of my life. My prayers are with his family, our teammates and his friends at this time."

It marked the second straight week the NFL found itself dealing with a tragedy right before gameday.

Last Saturday, Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher fatally shot his girlfriend before killing himself in front of his coach and general manager. The 25-year-old Belcher shot himself in the parking lot at the team's practice complex at Arrowhead Stadium.

"We are deeply saddened by the news of this accident and the passing of Jerry Brown," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said in a statement. "At this time, our hearts and prayers and deepest sympathies are with the members of Jerry's family and all of those who knew him and loved him."

Officers conducted a field sobriety test on Brent and arrested him on suspicion of driving while intoxicated, Argumaniz said. The

charge, a second-degree felony punishable by two to 20 years in prison, was upgraded after Brown was pronounced dead.

Argumaniz said Brent, who pleaded guilty to a drunken driving charge three years ago at Illinois, was being held without bond. Brent is named as Joshua Price-Brent in the police news release. Argumaniz said Brent missed a 10 a.m. Saturday booking session with a judge because he was intoxicated. He did not know if Brent had an attorney.

Brent was speeding when the vehicle hit a curb and flipped at least once, Argumaniz said. Police received 911 calls from motorists who saw the upside-down vehicle but they did not immediately have any eyewitnesses to the wreck, the police spokesman said.

Argumaniz said when officers arrived at the scene on a state highway service road, Brent was dragging Brown from the vehicle, a Mercedes, which was on fire. Officers quickly put out the small blaze, he said.

Argumaniz said it wasn't known how fast the vehicle was traveling. The road has a 45 mph limit.

"I can say investigators are certain they were traveling well above the posted speed limit," Argumaniz said.

Before he was taken to the jail, Brent went to a hospital for a blood draw for alcohol testing and also received treatment for some minor scrapes.

Argumaniz said Brent identified himself to officers as a Cowboys player.

Cowboys players were aware of the accident Saturday morning, and coach Jason Garrett told the team about Brown's death on the plane about 1:15 p.m. after asking other personnel to step off the aircraft, team spokesman Rich Dalrymple said.

The flight was "quiet, more than normal," Dalrymple said.

Former Illinois coach Ron Zook said Brent, a third-year player who made the first start of his career in the opener against the New York Giants, was trying to help Brown make it in the

NFL. Brown joined the Cowboys in October after he was released by the Indianapolis Colts.

"It was Jerry's dream, and Josh was trying to help him any way he could," Zook said.

Zook said he spoke with Schaffer, who said he had made contact with Brent.

"He said Josh was distraught, and he didn't care about himself or what was happening to him," Zook said. "All he cared about was Jerry's family."

Brent was arrested in February 2009 near the Illinois campus for driving under the influence, driving on a suspended license and speeding, according to Champaign County, Ill., court records.

In June 2009, Brent pleaded guilty to DUI and was sentenced to 60 days in jail, two years of probation, 200 hours of community service and a fine of about \$2,000. As part of his plea deal, prosecutors dropped one count of aggravated DUI/no valid driver's license. Brent successfully completed his probation in July 2011, court records show.

Mayo has 40, Mavs win in McHale's return

HOUSTON (AP)—Chris Kaman scored half as many points as O.J. Mayo for the Dallas Mavericks on Saturday night.

Considering the way Kaman's left ankle looked, those 20 points were just as impressive to coach Rick Carlisle.

Mayo tied a career high with 40 points, including 10 in the last three minutes, to lift the Mavericks to a 116-109 victory over the Rockets in coach Kevin McHale's return to the Houston bench.

Kaman left the Mavericks' last game on Thursday night with a sprained left ankle. He started Saturday night and played more than 18 minutes despite the left side of his ankle being almost completely covered by a deep purple bruise.

"Kaman showed a lot of guts even being out there," Carlisle said. "He went out there and gave us everything he had. He's obviously struggling laterally, but to put up the scoring numbers that he did is phenomenal. It's proves a lot to the team."

Kaman also had seven rebounds for Dallas, and Vince Carter and Darren Collison had 12 points apiece.

"With guys down ... and hurting a little bit, guys came and battled tonight," Kaman said. "O.J. played an unbelievable game for us. We got stops at the end on (James) Harden when we had to."

Harden had 30 points at half-time, but the Mavericks slowed him down in the second half. He scored just nine points in the second half.

McHale rejoined the team on Saturday after almost a month away from the team, and two weeks after the death of his daughter.

"It meant a lot to have him in the locker room ... and it showed how much he wanted to be here because he's been through a lot and he's here with us working," Houston's Carlos Delfino said.

McHale said he was excited to be back and hoped it was the right time to return. He said after the game that he has a lot of work to do.

"It was different being out there again," McHale said. "I had been away for a long time and we had put in some stuff. I've got to get caught up, so these next few days will be good for us."

A three-point play by Harden cut the Dallas lead to two points before a jump shot by Mayo made it 109-104. A 3-pointer by Toney Douglas seconds later put Houston back within two with about a minute to go, but Mayo's 3 seconds later extended the lead and the Mavericks held on for the win.

Carlisle also raved about Mayo, who tied a season high with eight rebounds, and has scored more than 30 points three times this season.

"What he is showing over the



Dallas Mavericks' O.J. Mayo (32) shoots over Houston Rockets' Omer Asik (3) and Toney Douglas (15) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, in Houston.

10 in the fourth, giving the Bulls their first three-game winning streak of the season.

Carlos Boozer had 12 points and 10 rebounds for Chicago.

Raymond Felton led the Knicks with 27 points, matching his season high set on Thursday in a victory at Miami. However, Felton was just 9 for 30 from the field, exceeding his career high for field-goal attempts by six shots.

Hawks 93, Grizzlies 83

In Memphis, Tenn., Josh Smith had 24 points, Lou Williams scored 18 of his 21 in the second half, and Atlanta won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Al Horford had 19 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for Atlanta, while Jeff Teague finished with 13 points and six assists.

Zach Randolph and Marc Gasol scored 18 points apiece, Randolph grabbing 13 rebounds as Memphis lost at home for only the second time this season. Rudy Gay scored 17 points, but was 7 of 25 from the field. Mike Conley finished with 12 points.

Pistons 104, Cavaliers 97

In Cleveland, Brandon Knight scored a career-high 30 points and Detroit beat Cleveland for the second time in six days.

The Pistons, who won for just the second time in 12 road games this season, took control with a run that began late in the third quarter and carried into the fourth period.

Tayshaun Prince scored 14 points while Jason Maxiell added 11 for the Pistons, who defeated the Cavaliers 89-79 on Monday in Auburn Hills, Mich.

Jeremy Pargo scored 24 points for Cleveland, which has lost five straight, nine of 10 and 15 of 17.

Celtics 92, 76ers 79

In Boston, Kevin Garnett scored 19 points, Jeff Green added 16, and Boston won the back end of a home-and-home with Philadelphia.

Paul Pierce finished with 13 points and Rajon Rondo dished out 11 assists and collected nine rebounds, one night after his first triple-double of the season. Rondo had just seven points.

Thaddeus Young led Philadelphia with 22 points and Evan Turner scored 13. The 76ers have lost three of four.

Philadelphia won Friday when Turner hit the go-ahead basket in the lane with 3.9 seconds left in overtime and Rondo missed a game-ending shot after he slipped along the left baseline.

Spurs 132, Bobcats 102

In Charlotte, N.C., Danny Green scored 23 points and San Antonio set a franchise record with 19 3-pointers to hand Charlotte its seventh straight loss.

Green was 7 of 9 from 3-point range and the Spurs shot 56 per-

cent from behind the arc.

Tony Parker had 22 points and nine assists as the Spurs won for the ninth time in 10 games to push their record to 17-4.

Green and Parker were a combined 18 of 22 from the field.

Kemba Walker led the Bobcats with 23 points and Gerald Henderson chipped in with 13.

Warriors 101, Wizards 97

In Washington, David Lee had 24 points and 17 rebounds, Klay Thompson added 23 points and Golden State beat Washington for its third straight road win.

Stephen Curry scored 22 points for the Warriors, who won the first three games of a road trip for the first time since February, 2003.

Golden State is 13-7, the first time it's been six games over .500 since the end of the 2007-08 season.

Jordan Crawford had 22 points, seven rebounds and eight assists, tying a season high for points and assists. Bradley Beal scored 17 points, Kevin Seraphin and Cartier Martin both had 14.

Clippers 117, Suns 99

In Los Angeles, Jamal Crawford led a fourth-quarter rally with 13 of his 21 points, and Los Angeles won its fifth in a row while sending Phoenix to a season-worst sixth straight loss.

Blake Griffin added 24 points, and Chris Paul had 16 points and 11 assists. Crawford made all four of his free throws to extend his streak to 55 in a row since Nov. 3.

Michael Beasley scored 21 points off the bench, and Shannon Brown added 19 for Phoenix, which hadn't lost six in a row since March 3-12, 2009.

The Clippers broke out in the final quarter after not leading by more than seven points through the first three periods. And they did it with their reserves, who scored every point.

Trail Blazers 99, Kings 80

In Portland, Ore., DeMarcus Cousins had 19 points and 12 rebounds, John Salmons added 19 points and 11 assists, and Sacramento snapped a six-game road losing streak.

Aaron Brooks had 14 for the Kings, who have won three in a row for the first time this season. Francisco Garcia and Jason Thompson added 12 each. The Kings overcame a dismal second quarter and steadily pulled away, outscoring Portland by 19 points in the second half.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 17 points and 10 rebounds and J.J. Hickson added 14 points and 15 rebounds for the Trail Blazers. Wesley Matthews scored 14 points, but suffered a left hip contusion and did not finish the game.

first 20 games is that he has the ability to carry a team at times, and it was really impressive tonight," he said.

The Rockets battled back from a 19-point deficit with a strong second quarter to lead at halftime and were up by nine points with 7 1/2 to go. But Mayo got hot and the Rockets came up short as Dallas extended its winning streak in the series to eight games.

McHale took a leave of absence on Nov. 10 to be with his family as his daughter's health worsened. Alexandra "Sasha" McHale died Nov. 24 of complications from Lupus. She was 23.

Many of the Mavericks went over to McHale and hugged or patted him after introductions, and he received a standing ovation when the public address announcer welcomed him back to the team.

Dallas used a 13-2 run to take a 102-100 lead with about 4 1/2 minutes left. Carter scored five points to power the run, and Brandan Wright capped it with a dunk.

Chandler Parsons made the second of two free throws for the Rockets before Mayo scored five quick points to extend the Mavericks' lead to 107-101 with less than three minutes left.

Parsons finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Harden had nine assists and six rebounds.

The Rockets opened the second half with a 10-4 run to extend their lead to 76-67 with 8 1/2 minutes left in the quarter. The Rockets continued their hot 3-point shooting from the first half early in the quarter as Harden and Jeremy Lin both hit 3s to power that run.

Dallas got going after that and an 8-2 spurt got the Mavericks within 78-75 with about five minutes left in the third quarter.

Houston was up by eight near the end of the third quarter, but Jae Crowder's 3-pointer with 15 seconds left cut the Rockets' lead to 89-84 entering the fourth quarter.

The Mavericks were up by 19 points with less than two minutes left in the first quarter after a long 3-pointer by Carter and thanks in large part to a 16-point quarter by Mayo.

Houston used a 35-15 run after that to erase the deficit and take a 55-54 lead four minutes before halftime. Harden scored 17 points and Houston hit five 3-pointers in that stretch. Harden had two of them, and he waved three fingers to the crowd while running down the

court after the second one.

The Rockets shot 70 percent and scored a season-high 42 points in the second quarter to just 40.9 percent shooting by the Mavericks to lead 66-63 at halftime.

Heat 106, Hornets 90

In Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 26 points, LeBron James finished with 24 points and seven assists, and Miami snapped a two-game slide by topping New Orleans.

Chris Bosh scored 13, and Ray Allen and Shane Battier each added 11 for Miami, which took control by outscoring the Hornets 33-10 over the final 11 minutes of the first half. New Orleans started the game 10 for 12 from the floor, then shot 9 for 31 over the rest of the half.

Ryan Anderson scored 24 for New Orleans, which got 20 from Robin Lopez and 12 from Jason Smith.

Miami shot a season-best 58 percent and turned 19 New Orleans turnovers into 22 points.

Bulls 93, Knicks 85

In Chicago, Marco Belinelli and Luol Deng scored 22 points apiece as Chicago snapped New York's five-game winning streak.

Belinelli scored 15 points in the first quarter, while Deng had

MARQUEZ

From Page 28

Referee Kenny Bayless never bothered to count as Marquez leaped into his handlers’ arms in celebration and Pacquiao’s wife broke into tears at ringside.

“I threw a perfect punch,” Marquez said. “I knew Manny could knock me out at any time.”

It was a stunning end to a thrilling fight, the fourth one in the last eight years between the two men. It could also be the end of the Filipino’s career, though he said in the ring afterward he would like to fight Marquez for a fifth time.

“If you give us a chance, we’ll fight again,” Pacquiao said. “I was just starting to feel confident and then I got careless.”

Pacquiao had been down in the third round but knocked Marquez down in the fifth and the two were exchanging heavy

blows in the sixth round before Marquez threw a right hand that flattened Pacquiao face down on the canvas.

“I thought I was getting him in the last couple of rounds but I got hit by a strong punch,” Pacquiao said. “I never expected that punch.”

Pacquiao was down for about two minutes before his handlers managed to get him up as Marquez celebrated and the sold-out crowd at the MGM erupted.

After being helped to his corner, Pacquiao sat on a stool, blew his nose and stared vacantly ahead as his handlers cut his gloves off. It was a stunning end to a furious fight, and Pacquiao was later taken to a hospital for precautionary examination.

“We always worked on that punch,” Marquez said. “We knew he was going to come out aggressive so we had a fight plan that was more technical. We were able to capitalize on it.”

Marquez had vowed to fi-

nally beat Pacquiao after losing two close fights and settling for a draw in the first fight. But after Pacquiao knocked him down in the fifth round and was landing big left hands, it looked like it would be Pacquiao’s night.

The two came out for the sixth round and the pace was just as relentless. Both were landing big punches and both were brawling when suddenly as the round came to close Marquez shot out a right hand that landed flush to the jaw of Pacquiao, who crumpled to the canvas in a heap.

“I felt he was coming to knock me out the last three rounds and I knew he was going to be wide open,” Marquez said.

It was the second loss in a row for Pacquiao, who dropped a decision to Timothy Bradley in June and who had vowed to regain his prominence in the ring.

Pacquiao was aggressive from the opening bell, but paid the price in the third round when

he got caught by a Marquez right hand that put him down. Pacquiao got back up and seemingly took control of the fight, dropping Marquez in the fifth round and landing the bigger punches until he was dropped.

“I got hit by a punch I didn’t see,” Pacquiao said.

Pacquiao, who earned more than \$20 million for the fight, was ahead 47-46 on all three scorecards after the fifth round.

There was no title at stake in the 147-pound fight, but that didn’t stop 16,348 fans from filling the MGM Grand Arena and roaring in unison from the opening bell as the two fighters went after each other.

Ringside punching stats underscored the ferocity of the bout, showing Pacquiao landing 94 of 256 punches to 52 of 246 for Marquez. But it was the one big right hand from Marquez that counted more than anything, knocking Pacquiao out for the first time in a career that goes back 17 years.

“He was in charge,” Pacquiao’s trainer, Freddie Roach said. “He just got a little too careless and got hit with a punch he didn’t see.”

Promoter Bob Arum immediately said he could see a fifth fight between the two boxers, and a dazed Pacquiao seemed to agree.

“Why not?” he said.

Pacquiao weighed the class limit of 147 pounds, but it was Marquez who looked like the stronger fighter entering the ring after having bulked up with the help of a strength conditioner,

though he weighed in at 143 pounds. In their earlier fights, Pacquiao had been the bigger puncher, knocking Marquez down a total of four times, but on this night it was Marquez who had the biggest punch.

The stunning knockout was the first real loss by Pacquiao in seven years. He lost a close decision to Bradley in his last fight, but most ringside observers believed he had won it fairly convincingly.

Marquez improved to 55-6-1 with 40 knockouts, while Pacquiao fell to 54-5-2.

EX-PH

From Page 28

level skills for their age group, but more are at a lower level if you will compare them to the players I met in the Philippines. However, they are still young and with their eagerness to learn, they can still improve,” the coach added.

MP United U18 coach Norman del Rosario said the former Philippine player’s clinic is a huge help, as the club’s players just like other groups on the island are first trained by volunteer coaches.

“Our players learned from their parents and other volunteers, who have little expertise in the sport and just learn from the clinics hosted by their respective clubs and NMIFA. But, with coach Rudy, you have someone who has a wide experience, both as a player and a coach, so when it comes to the technical aspect of the sport, our players really have a lot to learn from him,” Norman del Rosario said.

“Some of the players were even surprised to learn that they could just make a few movements at the pitch and produced better results. Coach Rudy taught them how to do the basic tricks properly without exerting so much energy on the drill,” the MP United mentor added.

The visiting coach also

demonstrated a few plays last Friday with some players from Tan Holdings, Matansa, and Shirley’s FC joining MP United strikers at the Oleai pitch. Rudy del Rosario taught U18 strikers his version of the “triangle” offense and defense.

“The keys to this offensive pattern are patience and focus. Passes are done among the three players and once one (top of the triangle) breaks free from his defender, the two other players must spot the open player who will then make the attack,” Rudy del Rosario explained to the U18 strikers.

For the defense, the Philippine coach added, defenders must be quick to step in front of the offensive player and watch out for open spaces that the two supporting players may be creating to free the top player.

Kennedy Izuka, who tried the triangle offense and defense repeatedly, said the play was helpful, as it tested their ability to execute plays without being rattled.

“During game time, especially in the crucial moments, we tend to rush things thus we usually commit mistakes, so with this play, we were taught the value of execution,” Izuka said.

Meanwhile, Rudy del Rosario resumes the camp today and he said the final week of the clinic will focus more on set plays and game situation tactics.

U14 PROA

From Page 28

Gonzales.

The division winners were each presented with team trophies and all of players received various prizes for participating.

The competition utilized a single-elimination format; games were played in 15-minute increments with running time.

The U11 age group started off the day and resulted with the Rollers leapfrogging Central Ballers, 16-6, as Ichiro Borja sprung off for three quick baskets out of the gate and teammates Chevy Alipio and Ylac Caracut finished the job with a couple of baskets apiece. Ichiro’s brother, Taka, added the cherry on top at the end, while Albert Alan’s 4 points led Central.

Then U14 Central Ballers’ Aiferson Atan raised some eyebrows in the second matchup when he sunk four of his team’s five field goals to get past West Kings,10-2. Reniel Relucio bagged the Kings’ lone score.

Keeping with U14 play, Matson Consulting-Proa ran amuck over Hi-5, 35-10, in the third number thanks to a dual effort of 19 points by William Camacho (11) and Karlo Deleon (8).

Camacho’s 11 points led six other Proa players including a 6 piece by Tyler Palacios.

Hi-5’s Art Borromeo, Leo

Cristobal, A.J. Hernandez, Jalen Lucido, and Lawrence Piyco were all held to one basket.

U19’s Hi-5 was packing two lines in its meeting with West Kings and pelted the latter, 37-8, thanks to a baker’s dozen Leo Crostobal and Rey Calbatica early on that came packed with 7 more checks late in the game by Manny Aldan. Claude Cruz and Richard Saturno added another 9, while Mica Bintz accounted for all 4 Kings offerings.

Then Shane Deleon-Guerrero Diaz grinded out 9 points down low for the U19 Rollers’ to take care of Central Ballers, 19-7, after which the U11 Rollers ransacked the Lil’ Thieves, 22-2, in their finals pairing.

Taiga Sato carried the torch for the U11 Rollers with 8 points and received a couple of baskets in support each from Alipio and the Borja brothers. U19 Central’s Aiferson Atan and Jaek Kapwich each managed just a trey in the assault, while Putra Sani rang in the Lil’ Thieves’ solo goal.

The rest of the U11 Rollers include Manny Cabacha, J.P. Cruz, Angelo, and T.J. Factor, Jake Pangelinan, and Ylac Caracut, with coach Joe Diaz.

Then Karlo Deleon helped U14 Proa’s outwit the Rollers, 12-9, in a chess match that in a way came down to free throws. Deleon carried half of the weight and bagged 2 points from the line including the final charity shot that iced it.

Rollers top scorer Mike Espinosa drained a 3-pointer for

5 points late in the period, but the group ran out of time.

The U19 Rollers fared better in its semifinal game and expired Hi-5, 26-17.

The group put together a nice little balance attack led by Emerson Feria and Ralph Francisco who provided a trio of baskets apiece and a couple more splashes by both DLG-Diaz and John Capuyon. Hi-5’s Calbatica was held to a meager team-high of 6 points.

Proa then pasted Central Ballers, 41-10, in the U14 finals as the latter was once again unable rally around standout Atan. He scrambled for 8 points, but the five-man Central crew was simply no match for a seven-player grouping that made up this year’s Rotary Club of Saipan U16 champions.

Last weekend’s U14 champions Matson Consulting-Proa is comprised of Karlo Deleon, William Camacho, Jonrey Gilles, Kobe Mendoza, D.J. Ong, Tyler Palacios, and Aaron Pamintuan under coach Edsell Mendoza.

The evening concluded with the U19 main event and the Rollers won it with a defensive approach for the majority of the 15-minutes and earned the nod, 19-11. Proa tried to get some offense going, but the Rollers did not allow an easy bucket and instead sent them to the line three times, which ate up some more precious moments at crunch time.

Rollers’ DLG-Diaz and Irvin Malonzo teamed up for

11 points that helped tipped the scale in their favor and Renen Lansang signed off for the group with four points just before the buzzer; Jacob Palacios’ 4 points led three Proa teammates.

The rest of the U19 Rollers include Jaron Ano, J.P. Iglesias, Prince Factor, Toshi Pangelinan, Justin Cayading, Dixon Kwon, Mike Yap; with Emerson Feria, John Capuyon, and Ralph Francisco.

Organizer Iglesias expressed his sincere gratitude to all of the sponsors and supporters that helped make Saturday’s event possible.

“I want to thank Ms. Sablan, Let’s Move Marianas, all of the players and their parents and coaches, Mr. Rangamar, IT&E, Pacific Trading Co., Coca-Cola, and everyone else who helped contribute to our cause,” said Iglesias.

Project CLAP is an acronym used to represent the library’s Cultural Language and Arts Program.

The youth program caters to hundreds of kids throughout the year and offers other activities such as tee-ball and cultural arts and crafts like basket weaving and ukulele classes.

JKPL is also planning to hold another tournament after the turn of the calendar year, which will feature soccer, volleyball and some cultural arts activities.

For more information, contact Bruce Iglesias at 788-7083 or email bjiglesias@gmail.com.

JR. TENNIS

From Page 28

in the girls U18 singles. She teamed up with mentor Jeff Race in downing Minor and Bobby Cruz in the mixed open doubles finals, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4, and then joined forces with Negahr Rastguin in topping Lydia Tan and Guam’s Yuka

Iwata in the women’s open doubles title match, 6-4, 6-1, Lopez missed a sweep in the Tan Holdings Classic when she bowed to Minor in the girls U18 singles championship game, 4-6, 3-6.

Schorr also recorded an upset in the Tan Holdings Classic when he thwarted the Top 2 seeded player in the boys U12 draw. The Grace Christian

Academy student first edged the top ranked Clayton Izuka in the second, 6-4, 6-3, and then stunned No. 2 seed Alex Park in the finals, 6-3, 6-2.

Schorr played in the boys U12 doubles, too, and advanced to the finals. He and Joshua Abragan then lost to Haruya Eda and Vincent Tudela in the title game.

With Schorr and Lopez win-

ning the NMASA November plum, they are now qualified for the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMASA Student Athletes of the Year award, which will be handed out in February next year.

Nominees for the coveted awards should be presented in NMASA’s next meeting on Jan. 10, while winners will be selected in the group’s February assembly.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	14	5	.737	—
Brooklyn	11	7	.611	2½
Philadelphia	11	9	.550	3½
Boston	11	9	.550	3½
Toronto	4	16	.200	10½

Southeast Division

Miami	13	5	.722	—
Atlanta	12	5	.706	½
Charlotte	7	12	.368	6½
Orlando	7	12	.368	6½
Washington	2	15	.118	10½

Central Division

Chicago	11	8	.579	—
Milwaukee	9	9	.500	1½
Indiana	10	10	.500	1½
Detroit	7	15	.318	5½
Cleveland	4	17	.190	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	17	4	.810	—
Memphis	14	4	.778	1½
Dallas	10	10	.500	6½
Houston	9	10	.474	7
New Orleans	5	14	.263	11

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	16	4	.800	—
Utah	11	10	.524	5½
Denver	10	10	.500	6
Minnesota	9	9	.500	6
Portland	8	12	.400	8

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	13	6	.684	—
Golden State	13	7	.650	½
L.A. Lakers	9	11	.450	4½
Sacramento	7	12	.368	6
Phoenix	7	14	.333	7

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Competitions wrap up

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three competitions concluded last week with Pacific Islands Club hosting the Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race for the last time, the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organizing ending its boys volleyball league, and the M-League completing the fall season.

PIC announced its last hosting of the 100-kilometer race last week and drew 170 riders in its last hurrah. Australians John Anderson and Jodie Willet went on to defend their respective division titles in the "Hell" in record-breaking fashions.

In the MISO volleyball, Saipan In-

ternational School was victorious with the White Geckos winning over the Grace Christian Academy Eagles in the finals and the Green Geckos beating Mt. Carmel School in the battle for third place.

In the M-League, Tan Holdings FC took Division 1 honors after edging Wild Bill's in the team standings. Tan

Holdings finished the double round-robin competition with a 5-2-1 win-draw-loss record against Wild Bill's, which fell to a 5-1-2 slate after losing its last game against Paire. In Division 2, MP United completed the fall season sweep after routing Kanoa Resort, 11-0.

In other news, Saipan Badminton

Club and Golden Racquets made it to the finals of the 2012 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament after eliminating separate semis foes last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

The defending champion SBC ousted Shirley's/Colgate Badminton Club, 8-2, while the Golden Racquets prevailed over the Berks Blazers.

In basketball, Pacific Oriental, Inc. and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan made it to the semifinals of the 2012 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League after beating Kanoa Resort and JP Centre in the first round of the playoffs at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

In billiards, IT&E Voyagers of SOS Bar & Grill and Jerry Soriano of Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Equalizers and Blue Ice Hustlers/Utopia Sports Bar took the top honors in the Saipan Billiards Association's 15th 2012 Summer/Fall season awards held last at PIC's Charley's Cabaret.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The lead pack in the 6th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle Race heads to Papago.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bikers make their turn at Mobil Kagman during the 6th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Australia's Jodie Willet, second, joins the chase group heading out of Kagman during the 6th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United FC, seen here posing for a photo during a club rally last week in Navy Hill, swept Division 2 of the M-League.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan International School Green Geckos pose for a group photo after beating Mt. Carmel School in the battle for third place in the MISO volleyball league last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The IT&E Voyagers of SOS Bar & Grill, seen here posing for a group photo, took the top honors in SBA awards banquet last week.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Golden Racquets' Jordan Pangelinan returns to his and Victor Regis' foe in the Traders badminton tournament at the TSL Sports Complex.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Saipan Badminton Club player serves during a game against Shirley's/Colgate Badminton Club in the Traders badminton tournament at the TSL Sports Complex.

**Manziel is first
freshman to
win Heisman
Trophy**
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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Mayo has 40,
Mavs win in
McHale's
return**
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28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Marquez knocks out Pacquiao in 6th round



Juan Manuel Marquez, from Mexico, right, lands a right to the head of Manny Pacquiao, from the Philippines, during their WBO world welter-weight fight Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, in Las Vegas. Marquez won by a knockout.

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—No need for Juan Manuel Marquez to impress the judges. No need for the referee to count to 10.



Marquez took care of all of his business Saturday night with a thunderous right hand that left Manny Pacquiao face first on the canvas with his remarkable career in question. Unable to win a decision in their first three fights, Marquez won the old-fashioned way with a huge right hand that put Pacquiao down for the second time in the fight at 2:59 of the sixth round.

See **MARQUEZ** on **Page 26**

U14 Proa, U19 and U11 Rollers take titles

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Rollers Basketball Club's U11 and U19 squads and Matson Consulting Proa's U14 team emerged victorious in last Saturday's Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Project CLAP Youth Basketball Tournament at the Gilbert C Ada Gymnasium.

The event was put on by JK-PL's sports coordinator Bruce Iglesias with help from Trina Sablan, Brabu, Chamolinian Cultural Village, Inc., the Let's Move Marianas program; IT&E; BANMI Development Officer Eli Rangamar; Eric Atalig and Leanna Hofschneider; Ada Gym director Jojo Attao; and JKPL's John Oliver

See **U14 PROA** on **Page 26**



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Matson Consulting Proa won the U14 division of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Project CLAP Youth Basketball Tournament held last Saturday at the Gilbert C Ada Gymnasium.

Jr. tennis players take November honors



Lopez

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Tennis' Mikayla Lopez and Robbie Schorr were named NMASA Student Athletes of the Month (November) last week.

Lopez and Schorr were selected as the top athletes for November during the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association's meeting last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium's conference room for their notable performance in the 4th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.



Schorr

Lopez took the women's open singles crown in the annual tournament after pulling off an upset over North Pacific and CNMI's top U18 player Thea Minor. The Marianas High School student defeated Minor, 4-6, 6-3, 10-6, and Guam's Camdyn Nadler, 6-1, 6-1, in the round-robin tournament to clinch the championship. The loss to Lopez was Minor's first in four years in a local tournament. Besides her singles win, Lopez also prevailed in the mixed open and women's open doubles and placed runner-up

See **JR. TENNIS** on **Page 26**

Ex-PH player shares skills with youth strikers



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rudy del Rosario (in white shirt) watches youth players execute the triangle offense and defense during an afternoon session of his soccer camp last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



MP United Football Club players spent five fruitful days with former Philippine National Football Team member Rudy del Rosario, strengthening their soccer fundamentals and learning more technical drills at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Del Rosario, who suited up for the Philippine Team in the 1991 Southeast Asian Games in Manila and is now the head coach of the Philip-

pine National Team for the 2012 Homeless World Cup, started the camp last Monday and for the past four days focused his clinic on the basics of the sports before demonstrating set plays last Friday at the Oleai pitch.

"I put emphasis on the basics of the sports, like ball control, passing, and dribbling in the first four days of our session because unless they master the fundamentals, it will be hard for them to move up to the next level," del Rosario said.

"Some players have high-

See **EX-PH** on **Page 26**